WORLD / A21
US threatened to bomb Pakistan after 9/11

NEWS / A2
'Fascist' Esperon pelted with eggs, mud by UP students

SPORTS / A23
Red Lions nip Dolphins, break 28-year NCAA championship drought

SAT. SPECIAL / E1
Why Nida Blanca is a tough act to follow

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, September 23, 1986 ... Vol. 21 / No. 2[illegible] P1[illegible]

No makeup, no long nails for women cops

By Nancy Carvajal

POLICEWOMEN WHO WEAR makeup, dangling earrings and artificial long, colored nails are committing an offense and may be sanctioned.

Ex-plotter sees no parallel coup in RP

By Norman Bordadora, Philip C. Tubeza and Nikko Dizon

THE ISSUES OF CHEATING AND corruption may have rocked both the Philippine and Thai governments at some point, but according to a political analyst, it is unlikely that the coup in Bangkok would

IN CONTROL A soldier and his machine gun sit atop a tank in front of Bangkok's Marble Temple as Thailand's ruling generals, who seized power in bloodless coup earlier this week, tightened their grip on power with tough new curbs on media. The junta said it was close to naming a new prime minister.

Junta close to picking PM

Thai coup leaders line up top bets to head new gov't

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S MILITARY COUP LEADERS ARE close to naming a civilian prime minister and he is likely to be a lawyer able to steer political reform, not the expected economist, Air Force chief Chalit Phukpasuka said yesterday.

A new constitution was the top priority, which meant legal expertise was the main requirement, he told reporters three days after the military took over. He said the military would appoint a civilian prime minister within two weeks before stepping back.

"He should have the best expertise in law because our goal is to amend the constitution," said Chalit, one of the military chiefs who took power on Tuesday to oust billionaire Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra while he was out of the country.

"The economy can be looked after by a deputy prime minister."

The new heavier law for the job of producing a constitution without the flaws Thaksin was accused of exploiting to give himself near-dictatorial powers was Supreme Administrative Court President Achanyuen Chaisaen.

Chalit confirmed Achanyuen was a candidate, but declined to elaborate. Achanyuen said he had not been approached and refused to say whether he would take the job if offered to him.

Speculation had centered on former World Trade Organization chief Supachai Panitchpakdi and central bank boss Prithiraithorn Deyshida, respected men thought most likely to assure the world that Thailand's export-dependent economy was in good hands.

The military said it had been forced into Tuesday's coup because there was no other way out of a crisis that pitted Thaksin, twice an election winner in a landslide, against the old guard and

JUNTA / A10

There's still hope for RP, 3 young leaders find

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IN THESE YOUNG LEADERS LIES PROOF of hope in the Philippines.

Dr. Maria Corazon Abogado de Ungria breaks ground in forensic science. Maj. Dennis Eclarin brings microfinance to remote towns in the country while serving the Philippine Army. Ariel C. Hernandez nurtures a culture of peace in war-torn Mindanao.

The three are among the 10 young leaders who took part in the recently concluded 1st Philippines 21 Young Leaders Forum organized by Asia Society Philippines and the HSBC. All 10 leaders will represent the country in the Asia 21 Young Leaders Forum in Seoul, South Korea, where they will meet and discuss issues with other young leaders from Asia and the Pacific.

De Ungria heads the DNA Analysis Laboratory of the University of the Philippines in Diliman—fondly referred to as the Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) unit of the Philippines—spearheading efforts to use forensic DNA technology in the country.

The strength of DNA-based evidence in solving crimes is well established in developed countries. Its full recognition in Philippine criminal cases has a long way to go, according to De Ungria, despite the fact that the technology and expertise are already available.

This is where she hopes the DNA Analysis Laboratory can come in.

It is in the laboratory where De Ungria and her nine-man team analyze biological evidence—such as semen and blood samples from rape victims or decomposing body parts of victims of disasters.

THERE'S STILL / A8

SC gag order a big puzzle to senators

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IN A BARE MOVE, SENATE PRESIDENT Manuel Villar yesterday asked the Supreme Court to clarify "misimpressions" that it had imposed a gag rule on the Senate in its investigation of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

At the same time, Villar said other senators said the SC's order temporarily suspending the Senate inquiry into the alleged dissipation of assets of PCGG-sequestered corporations did not mean the chamber would stop all its other investigations.

"It's not fair to say we were given a gag order. They have to correct this," Villar said in a phone interview a day after the high court heard arguments on the legality of the warrants of arrest issued by the Senate against PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio and other commissioners.

Villar said he had asked Senate lawyer David Sup to request SC spokesperson Israel Khan to correct the impression that the Senate had been gagged.

Yap declined to elaborate on the con-

SC BAR / A8

FREE AT LAST. Commissioners of the PCGG, led by its chair Camilo Sabio (right), share a solemn moment during yesterday's thanksgiving Mass after they reported for work for the first time since last week.

PCGG commissioners back at work

By Aksan Puga

THE ONLY THING LACKING WAS A brass band.

After 10 days of dodging a Senate "posse," five senior officials of the embattled Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) were reunited and returned to work yesterday, thanks to a Supreme Court order suspending the arrest warrants issued against them by an angry Senate.

The welcome they received when they arrived at the PCGG offices in Mandaluyong was a blend of revelry and solemnity.

Per PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio, who spent 10 days in Senate detention, and for Commissioners Nicasio Conti, Narciso Nario, Ricardo Abcede and Teresa Javier, who were in hiding all that time, their defiance of a powerful institution seemed worth it.

They all appeared raring to go back to work.

Cheering employees and welcome banners told them they were finally back to their own turf. The rousing welcome was topped by a solemn Mass.

PCGG / A8

Most drunken of 4 GIs says he heard only kissing, moaning

By Veh Contreras

THE "MOST DRUNK" AMONG THE FOUR accused US Marines in the Subic rape case chained under oath yesterday that he only heard "kissing, moaning and laughter" in the van that he shared with the Filipina complainant and her purported abuser on the night of Nov. 1, 2005.

"Thank you for telling your story to the Marines," Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Pe de los Santos said before letting go of Lance Cpl. Dominic Duplantis, 21.

Stung by the remark, defense lawyers quickly demanded that it be stricken off the record.

Duplantis was the last of the four American defendants to testify in the landmark trial that Judge Benjamin Pozon, in an unusual open-court disclosure, said he wanted resolved before the first anniversary of the purported crime.

Compared to the three other accused, Duplantis gave the shortest testimony but followed the same line of defense. That the complainant, "Nicole," had consensual sex with Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith.

In his testimony on Monday, Smith said Nicole was a willing partner who even helped him put on a condom. The next day, Staff Sgt. Chad Carpenter, who at one point described Nicole as "a professional preying on" Smith, said he regarded her and Smith as "lovers."

On Thursday, Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood mainly cited the purported lack of struggle as Nicole's part during the ride to the rented van.

During direct examination, Duplantis said he "couldn't tell for sure, but Smith and the girl were actively involved with each other."

MOST / A11

A2
WEATHER FORECAST
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Second FRONTPAGE
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2006

Gov't tracking foreign sources of CPP funding, says Gonzales

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AFTER CLAMPING DOWN ON their local sources of funding, Malacañang is now going after the financiers of communist rebels abroad.

The Palace has tapped the Anti-Money Laundering Council to track down Philippine companies paying revolutionary taxes to exiled Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison and foreign donors.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said he believed these companies with operations overseas were the final source of the dwindling income of Sison, who has been in self-exile in the Netherlands for more than two decades.

Gonzales said that with the military's clampdown on the extortion activities of New People's Army rebels, Sison has been demanding payment of revolutionary taxes from big companies abroad.

One of the objectives of the Philippine Anti-Money Laundering Council is to trace the financial backbone of terrorist organizations, particularly in Southeast Asia.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced last July that the country has made its mark in its anti-money laundering campaign by freezing over P1 billion more and filing roughly about a hundred cases since the Anti-Money Laundering Act was enacted five years ago.

Since the inclusion of the CPP-NPA in the list of terror organizations of the US and Europe, financiers and lobby groups have seen the taps on their foreign funding sources close down and they have found them to make do with revolutionary taxes as their primary source of income.

With rebels detained payment of revolutionary taxes from politicians who want to campaign inside sometimes they resorted to threatening companies built on those engaged in telecommunications, transportation, mining and logging firms operating in their areas. The rebels routinely torch the business assets of companies that do not pay.

READY FOR RAMADHAN
A young Muslim girl carrying a prayer rug on her head passes by a "halal" food restaurant in Quiapo, Manila, two days before the start of the Ramadhan celebration. Muslims all over the world will fast for 30 days starting tomorrow, Sunday. ERA MCBRYAN/ILUSTRADO CONTRIBUTOR

Bomb chemical popular fertilizer for Zambo fruit growers

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AMMONIUM nitrate, the chemical used for making bombs, is also popular as a fertilizer with fruit growers, particularly in this mango-producing center with some 2,000 hectares of land planted to the fruit.

According to city agriculturist Diosdado Dalanon, mango growers prefer to use the chemical because of its high nitrogen content, compared to other fertilizers like ammonium phosphate, ammonium chloride and urea.

"It's basically a flower inducer just as for mango trees but it's effective fruit-bearing stuff," Dalanon said.

But ammonium nitrate is very potent and highly volatile if stored under uncontrolled conditions, he said.

"If mixed with sulfur, it will deliberately explode. But it will be the open, it turns into hard stone," Dalanon said.

He said the use of the chemical is regulated, requiring a permit from the Fertilizers and Pesticide Authority.

Supt. Jose Bacarro Gamila, chief of the explosives and ordnance detection (EOD) unit of the Zamboanga City Police Office, said the owner of the 24 bags of ammonium nitrate recently intercepted onboard a cargo vessel from Iloilo "could be a mango grower, distributor of fertilizer or farmer's association."

The potency of a teaspoon of ammonium nitrate would be equivalent to that of an exploding "super lolo" pyrotechnic product.

Lawyer Cain Climaco, a city councilor who has ventured into mango growing, said some mango growers did use ammonium nitrate, though for himself, he's not.

"My trees are still small, they're not yet fruit-bearing so I use the complete type of fertilizer to make the trees grow," Climaco said. Jodi S. Allpahi, Inquirer Mindanao

Abus now have hi-tech bomb-making capacity

By Dona Pazcibugan

LOCAL TERRORISTS ARE NOW capable of making sophisticated bombs similar to those used by the al-Qaida international terror group, according to Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr.

He said security forces had discovered a "potentially lethal" terror campaign when they captured this week a bomb-making factory in a camp run by the Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah in the jungles of Sulu.

The troops seized several sophisticated homemade explosives with "close similarities" to those used in the Middle East and Afghanistan, said Cruz who spoke before the Manila Overseas Press Club on Thursday night.

One bomb, already armed, had electronic anti-tamper sensors and was loaded with hundreds of eight-millimeter ball bearings "designed to kill anyone within a 150-meter kill zone," he said.

Another device in a plastic bottle showed the rebels' capability to produce liquid bombs, he said.

Cruz said the improvised bombs "show a capability heretofore unseen among local terrorist groups."

On Monday, police in Zamboanga City seized a 600-kg shipment of ammonium nitrate, enough to fill forty 5-ton dump trucks, and there was reason to believe that a potentially lethal terrorist bombing campaign has been disrupted, Cruz said.

But he warned that though their leaders are on the run in Sulu, the Abu Sayyaf and their Al counterparts are still capable of staging bomb attacks to metropolitan areas.

"They have yet to be defeated and their potential to launch terrorist attacks remains a serious concern," he said.

Last month, the military launched a United States-backed offensive targeting top Abu Sayyaf leaders, including Khadafy Janjalani and two alleged members of the Southeast Asian terror group Aslanah Jumaliyah—Imam Pundi and Dulmatin, who are believed to be hiding out with Moro rebels and are both wanted in the 2002 Bali bombings.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said earlier this week that extremist leaders and their cohorts were "falling one by one, and we are on the verge of wiping out the notorious Abu Sayyaf group permanently."

Cruz urged the passage of the antiterrorism bill, saying current laws are "clearly inadequate" in the face of an enemy that has become more sophisticated.

"We must continue to redouble our efforts knowing that the enemy is developing new capabilities. [Soldiers'] current resistance (in fight with) one hand tied behind their backs," he said.

"Terrorism is a scourge being spread by an unseen enemy, who has the ability to melt back into communities and hide among law-abiding citizens," Cruz said.

In brushed aside fears that giving police and military more leeway in arresting and detaining suspected terrorists would give rise to human rights abuses.

"The leadership of our defense and military establishment is committed to enforce the law against all its personnel who violate our laws and military norms," he said.

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Erap to fight Cha-cha

FORMER PRESIdent Joseph Estrada wants to personally appear before the Supreme Court to oppose the bid of Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines to have the 1987 Constitution amended through a people's initiative.

Lawyer Rufus Rodriguez, Estrada's legal counsel, yesterday said his client planned to ask the Supreme Court to allow him to present library from his detention in Tanay, Rizal to attend the oral arguments on people's initiative as a measure to change the Charter to be presented before the high court.

"We are hopeful that the integrity court will consider favorably our request as President Estrada wishes to personally witness the proceedings and have an opportunity to air his side on why he is vehemently opposed to people's initiative as a mode of changing the Charter," Rodriguez said. Amy Remo Bordador

Esperon is Palace 'poster boy' vs power grabbers

By Dona Z. Pazcibugan

SO LONG AS ITS "POSTER BOY" it in command, the Arroyo government is confident the military will not rise up to grab power, according to Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr.

"My position is that General Hermogenes Esperon will be the poster boy for no coups in the Philippines," Cruz declared at a Manila Overseas Press Club forum in Makati City Thursday night.

He said Esperon's "sharp mind" and "passion for reforms" would stamp out further mutinous within the military.

Cruz's remarks elicited a huge gale from Esperon while the rest of the military top brass in the audience kept mum.

"It is very obvious what we should do. We will not [stage a coup]," said Esperon, who will serve as Armed Forces Chief of Staff until February 2008.

On Tuesday night, Thai Army chief General Sonthi Boonyaratglin staged a bloodless coup d'etat to oust Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra who was accusing the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The Thai general declared a military junta but promised to install a civilian interim government in two weeks.

"We don't see any kind of coup. I am different. We are different," Esperon said, reacting to comparisons between the Philippines and Thai political situation.

"My trust remains you that the manner of staging a coup will be a thing away from political martial-ing," he added.

Like Thaksin, President Macapagal-Arroyo is accused of corruption. She is also accused of election cheating.

She, however, had overcome a coup attempt late February the second in her administration.

Thirty-eight officers led by ex-Scout Ranger commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin, as well as 135 enlisted personnel from the Scout Rangers are under pre-trial investigation for possible court-martial for the attempted mutiny.

Cruz believes the military has recovered all those involved in the Feb. 24 coup plot.

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UN official seeks swift okay of antiterror bill

By Fe Zamora

A TOP OFFICIAL OF THE United Nations on Thursday urged senators to "go beyond political differences" and pass the antiterrorism bill that the country needs to ensure that the "scourge of terrorism disappears from the daily lives of Filipino people."

UN Assistant Secretary-General Javier Suprow, also executive director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) of the UN Security Council, made the appeal to senators after a week-long consultancy and evaluation of counterterrorism efforts by various government agencies.

"I would like to urge the legislators to try and go beyond their political differences and [to] try to get that legislation passed as soon as possible because it is very important that there is a law that describes clearly the crime of terrorism," Suprow told a press conference last Thursday at the Bristol Hotel in Makati City. He flew left the country Friday.

According to Suprow, an antiterrorism law would facilitate the work of the police, the prosecutor and even in the observance of human rights. "Terrorism is not a common crime, there is something more than that," Suprow said.

Principally authored by Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, the proposed measure has faced strong opposition from Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. (PDP-Laban) who stated that many of the criminal offenses were already punishable under the Revised Penal Code.

Pimentel has also expressed apprehension that the new law would lead to violation of human rights. "If we pass the anti-terrorism bill now without adequate safeguards against possible abuses, we are bound to regret it later," he said.

In fact, Enrile has agreed to scrap a provision that would justify the arrest of a person and his detention for at least 72 days even without formal charges on the basis of mere information or complaint that the suspect is engaged in terrorist activities.

Under the proposed bill, the 15-day detention of a suspect may be extended.

Since his arrival on Sept. 18, Suprow said he had held meetings with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and top security officials involved in counterterrorism.

Suprow said the government had a "proper grasp" of operational matters in counterterrorism, but was hobbled in legal aspects. He said the lack of a law against terrorism was also affecting efforts to plug the financing activities of terrorists.

"We do hope that in the next weeks, months at the latest, this will be effectively enacted," Suprow said.

Suprow said his group also visited suspects and airports in Metro Manila and discussed the country's needs that are beyond assistance in counterterrorism.

He said it is done, however, that the UN was not involved in giving technical assistance, but in identifying the specific needs and potential sources or donors.

He said his team included experts from the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) and experts on the Taliban and the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden.

Veep raps BI over Lebanon travel ban snafu

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO HITTER Arroyo tasked the Bureau of Immigration to allow Filipino women married to Lebanese nationals to leave the country as they are not covered by the ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to such Arab country.

De Castro, governmental adviser on overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and head of Task Force Lebanon, made the statement after several Filipino women married to Lebanese came to his office and complained that they were being prevented by the bureau from leaving the country.

De Castro said he was surprised by the bureau's decision since the ban was not meant to curtail the rights of Filipinos who have families in Lebanon.

"The bureau is simply overreacting. It was not the intention of the ban to prevent these women who are married to Lebanese nationals and who have families there from leaving the country. In the first place, these women are not workers," he told the bureau in an interview.

Those who came to his office were actually holders of Lebanese passports, he said.

The Lebanese joined 16 Chinese, 15 Indonesians and 10 Malaysians who have been evacuated from Lebanon since July 21 after Israel launched air strikes on Hezbollah targets in Lebanon in response to the capture of two Israeli soldiers by the Shiite militant group.

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On Cairo called up Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis to discuss the matter. Seguis promised to immediately address the concern.

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Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, Mona Aganon's column—"Merry Christmas, Imelda"—on Page B2 of the Business section misstated the relationship between Aimee Zobel de Ayala and the late Enrique Zobel. The two were cousins—not brothers.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Corrections, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 7th Floor, Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Marconi Street, Makati City, fax (fax. 897-47-82/84, e-mail address: dailyinq@inquirer.com.ph).

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GMA announces freeze in fares, cut in NLEx toll

By Christine O. Avendaño

TOLL FEES AT THE NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY (NLEX) will be reduced by more than 10 percent effective Jan. 1 next year and there will be no hike in transport fares, at least for the remainder of this year, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced yesterday.

In a news conference in Malacañang, the President said the toll cut and fare freeze were made possible by the strong performance of the economy, particularly the good showing of the peso against the dollar, and the corresponding slump in global oil prices.

The good news about the fare rate reduction in toll fees at NLEx, she said, may "fresh off the news," coming after her meeting yesterday with the management of the Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNTC).

"Because of the good exchange rate we can afford this," the President said. The losses of the corporation owned by Indonesian tycoon Anthoni Salim "are temporary in nature because it covers certain loans that payment promises."

The Jan. 1 schedule for the toll cut is in keeping with the Supplemental Toll Operating Agreement that says any adjustments in toll fees should be done every two years starting 2003, she said.

"The financing (of NLEx) is dollar-based so every time there is a drop in the dollar, then it's automatic they should reduce their toll rate," Mendoza said.

The new SLEx toll fees will use vehicles' payload capacity as the following: for Class 1 vehicles, P37.50 (down from P42.40); for Class 2 vehicles, P60.75 (down from P68); and Class III vehicles P112.50 (down from P127.20).

Vehicles will be charged per kilometer the following: for Class 1 vehicles, P2.19 (down from P2.48); Class II vehicles, P3.49 (down from P6.20); and Class III vehicles P6.59 (down from P7.45).

The toll fee adjustments were mentioned by MNTC president Jose de Jesus in a Sept. 21 letter to Mendoza.

Mendoza said the Toll Regulatory Commission (TRC), which he chairs, has yet to deliberate on the formula adjustment proposed by the MNTC but stressed that there were more "pros" than "cons" to the proposal.

"Because we follow the same computation, it's just a matter of agreeing on the timing," he said. "Still it is going to appear this," he told reporters.

He said the toll fees at NLEx would be in effect for the next two years but the MNTC could file a petition for adjustment in case the peso-dollar exchange rate deteriorates.

At the same time, the transportation secretary said the government would defer taking action on the pending petitions for transport fare increases by jeepneys, buses and taxis.

"We are not going to act on any petition for fare increases," Mendoza said, adding that this would be the government position for the rest of the year.

He noted that oil prices should continue to go down and thus this would be the trend until the end of the year.

Asked about calls for a rollback in transport fares, he said there were no such petitions yet but if someone files a petition, this would be subjected to screening.

Palace warned of peasants' wrath over DA's paltry share in budget

By Philip C. Tubeza

A BIPARTISAN LAWMAKER HAS warned President Macapagal-Arroyo of "massive peasant protests" and the "revolt of the peasantry" for the country if she does not increase the agriculture budget in the proposed P1.1 trillion 2007 budget.

Bukidnon Rep. Rafael Mariano said these despite the agricultural sector's more than 20 percent contribution to the gross domestic product, it would only get a measly two percent, or P20.6 billion, in the 2007 budget.

Mariano said this was reflective of the whole government's "complete neglect of farmers, fisherfolk and others involved in the agricultural sector."

"A roughly two-percent allocation for the agriculture sector is highly deplorable compared with the sector's more than 20 percent contribution to the GDP," he said.

Out of the agriculture department's P20.6 billion allocation, P12.2 billion will go to the bureaucracy for salaries and such, and P28.4 billion for the implementation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plan.

The bills attached irrespectively, which includes the National Food Authority will receive a separate allocation of P1.025 billion.

"The 100% only has an allocation of P1.1 billion--despite zero interest/ element to investment policy [buying] prices to P12 to P15 per kilogram, which includes the agriculture sector as least 25 percent of locally produced palay in order to influence prices at the farmgate," Mariano said.

He said the farmgate price of palay has only been pegged at P7 per kilo. During harvest time, it dropped as low as P3 to P4 a kilo.

The NIA only buys less than two percent of domestically produced palay at less than P16 a kilo, he said.

Mariano said the DA plans to import 1.6 million metric tons of rice next year with an estimated budgetary requirement of P36 billion.

"If the DA (through the NIA) will only utilize at least half of the above-mentioned amount to procure locally produced palay, it can acquire at least 30 percent of our total palay production," he said.

Mariano warned of "massive peasant protests" during the harvest season next month.

"Ms Arroyo will surely hate the Filipino peasantry's wrath. They already do not get government support and now their product is not going to be bought," he said.

House OKs bill seeking to create regional payroll units for teachers

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES has passed on third and final reading a bill that sought to create regional payroll units for half a million teachers in the country, decentralizing the current, general service of the Department of Education (DepEd).

"This bill was passed this week with the goal in view of quickening the processing and releasing of the paychecks of the country's 505,230 public school teachers," said House Deputy Majority Leader Eduardo Gullas.

Gullas, a former education who represents Cebu's first district, led a multipartisan group of 65 members of the house who authored the bill.

Gullas said DepEd's highly-centralized and largely Manila-based payroll services division was being "overwhelmed" by the sheer number of paychecks it had to process.

The payroll division handles almost P100 billion worth of paychecks yearly. The amount is expected to grow higher in the years ahead as government creates more teaching posts by the thousands to address the public school teacher shortage in the countryside.

Next year alone, Gullas said, the DepEd would spend P1.2 billion to engage 18,981 new teachers and nonteaching personnel. This is on top of the 5,000 hired this year and the 5,000 to be hired in 2007.

DepEd personnel now complain almost half of the national government's 1,175,000 employees.

"The centralized payroll system has led to recurring delays in releasing of the salaries and allowances of teachers, particularly those from the provinces," Gullas said.

He said teachers, mostly from the Visayas and Mindanao, also found it "extremely tedious" to have paperwork discrepancies corrected, such as those due to surname unblending cases and unauthorized deductions.

Mike A public stature journalist's best defense vs libel, says lawyer

By Jaime P. Tesorio
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE FIRST GOVERNOR JOEL Miguel Arroyo could be considered a public figure, and that is a journalist's best defense against libel.

Public figures should not be unnecessarily with regard to media criticisms on matters of public concern. The press freedom, however, has not until at least 12 journalists for libel, including Philippine Daily Inquirer columnist Ramon Tulfo, editor in chief Letizia Magsanoc, publisher Isagani Yambot and several others. Among the publications also sued by the First Gentleman are Newsbreak Magazine, Malaya, Tribune and Bandera.

During a roundtable discussion on libel organized by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), lawyer Theodore Te of the University of the Philippines College of Law opined that since Mr. Arroyo has an office called the "Office of the First Gentleman," he is not only a public figure but a public office as well.

He cited the 1996 landmark case of Borjal vs Court of Appeals where the complainant, claiming to be a private person, was deemed a public figure because the issue concerning the case was a public concern.

In the Borjal case, the Supreme Court said a "public figure is a person who, by his accomplishments, fame, mode of living, or by adopting a profession or calling which gives the public a legitimate interest in his doings, his affairs and his character, has become a public personage. He is, in effect, a celebrity. Obviously, to be included in his category are those who have achieved some degree of reputation by appearing before the public, as in the case of an actor, a professional baseball player, a pugilist, or any other entertainer."

The ruling also stated that public officials, famous inventors and explorers, war heroes, even ordinary soldiers, and infant prodigies are no less personages than the Great Exalted Ruler of the lodge. It includes, in short, anyone who has evolved or a position which subjects the public attention to himself especially in connection with his public activities.

In the expanded definition of public figure, Mr. Arroyo could be considered one because "he is well known, prominent and some of the institute discussed about him are matters of public concern," Te said.

Mr. Arroyo runs a foundation that raises money for his projects.

"If you a basketball player it's a public figure," he added.

Jose Torres Jr., NUJP's chair, said libel, a criminal offense, is used as a weapon to harass journalists.

According to Te "libel is technically a restriction of free expression in a democratic society subject to punishment. In some cases, it amounts to prior restraint."

He gave a ruling for the decision/situation of libel to stop harassment of journalists and defend press freedom.

ABAYO

Eastern Visayas HS students top achievement test anew

By Jocosse Magallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—EASTERN VISAYAS SCORED BEST of 16 other regions in the country in the National Achievement Test (NAT) for fourth year high school students for the year 2005–2006.

Ms. Imelda Dichoso in Eastern Visayas also landed in the top 10, based on the results released by the Department of Education (DepEd) to Central Visayas.

DepED Central Visayans ranked third among the regions, one slot higher compared to last year, according to DepEd 7 regional director Carolina Escobedo.

All three divisions in Eastern Visayas took the first three slots in the top 10, the NAT results disclosed.

The top 10 school divisions are the Southern Leyte School Division, with mean percentage scores (MPS) of 65.56; followed by Eastern Samar, with 64.37 MPS; Manila City (Southern Leyte), with 63.78 MPS; Surigao del Norte, with 62.24 MPS; Western Samar, with 62.23 MPS; Toledo City (Cebu), with 61.85 MPS; Northern Samar, with 61.14 MPS; Siargao, with 60.80 MPS; Agusan del Norte, 59.62 MPS; and Gingoog City, with 60.63 MPS.

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In fourth, fifth and sixth places were Cagayan Valley, Zamboanga Peninsula and Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) with 45 MPS; the 10th MIMAROPA (Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan) region was in seventh place with 44 MPS; in 8th, 9th and 10th place were Bicol Region, Western Visayas and Northern Mindanao, with 43 MPS; 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th places were to Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Davao region and National Capital Region (NCR) with 42 MPS; 15th was the Ilocos region with 41 MPS; 16th—Ilonggos, with 39; and 17th place—Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), with 34 MPS.

Mardonio said he was elated by the results because it showed that the ability of the students in General Visayas as well as the teaching skills of the teachers have improved.

He said Central Visayans ranked number six last year.

Aside from that, Central Visayas has the highest mean gains or increase of the MPS compared to other 16 regions nationwide," Mardonio said.

Mardonio also credited the passers who were very supportive of their children during the revision of subjects in the different schools, especially in Toledo City, which ranked number one in Central Visayas.

Mardonio said his next task was to maintain or even improve the ranking in the next NAT to be held.

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Psalter Pss or Proverbiums

1st Reading: 1 COR 15:35-37, 42-49
Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Saint Saint Saint

Saudi firm to share profits with RP workers

A SAUDI ARABIA construction firm has promised to share its profits with its Filipino employees.

"Everybody shall participate in the profit sharing regardless of position covering the least skilled to the highest. We will implement this starting the this year 2006," Sheik Mohammad Al-Mojil told an executive of its local recruitment agency UNV Construction Corporation's in a meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia recently.

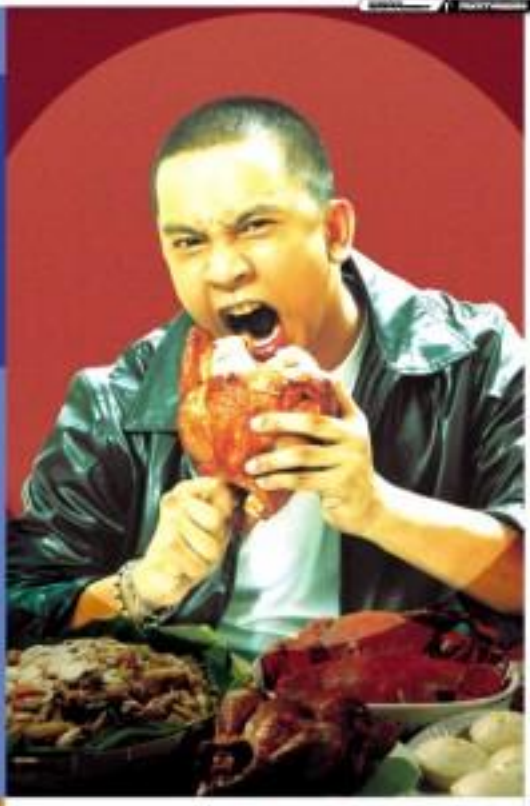
The sheik owns Mohammad Al-Mojil Group (MMG), one of the largest contractors in the country in the Middle East.

The MMG group of companies is fond of winning the top 500 companies in Saudi Arabia.

This year, MMG has committed to employ almost 5,000 Filipino skilled and unskilled workers for its onshore and offshore operations.

UNV has opened branches in Mindanao and Visayas for more accessible Filipino job seekers.

"Gusto ko tipong bukas 'di na ako sisikatan ng araw!"



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Senate threatens to form own security force

By TJ Burgonio

SENATE PRESIDENT MANUEL Villar Jr. yesterday questioned an order of PNP Director General Oscar Calderon prohibiting policemen assigned to the Senate from helping serve arrest warrants, even as he threatened to form a separate Senate security force.

Villar warned the Philippine National Police leadership that its reservations about ordering a lawful order of Congress would reflect badly on President Macapagal-Arroyo because the Senate is considered a co-equal branch of government.

"It's as if they're saying that they don't value our institution, they don't respect us," Villar said.

Director Wilfredo Garcia, the PNP operations director, said Thursday that all security personnel assigned to the Senate and House "shall only take direction from the chain of command."

Calderon said the job of his men was only to guard the premises of both chambers, and that any other police functions required by either chamber had to be coursed through the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

Calderon's statement followed reports that members of the Special Action Force stationed in the Senate had been suspended and investigated for stalling Senate policemen last week in serving the arrest warrant on Camilo Sabio, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

Endangering security

Villar said he would raise the issue with the Department of Interior and Local Government.

"This is not about the Army, no," he said. "This is about the security of an institution, especially in the face of threats of coup d'état, to those dangerous times, the Senate could be caught in the crossfire. That's the reason why they deployed SAF members here."

Villar also warned that the pullout of the combat-trained SAF contingent from the Senate and its replacement by agents of the Police Security and Protection Office, who were mostly detailed with diplomats, could endanger Senate security.

"If they pull them out, and something happens, they'll be held liable for it," he said.

Own security force

In view of this, Villar said he would review an old proposal for the Senate to form its own security force, and suggest the name to Speaker Jose de Venecia.

"Maybe it's time there are form our own security force so we don't have to depend on the police for our security. Besides, we can get good people. That's normal in any parliament. In Washington, they have such a force," Villar said.

In the past, the Senate decided against fortifying up the sergeant at arms, now headed by retired Maj. Gen. Jose Balajadia (ret.), due to budget constraints.

How democracy works

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. hailed Villar.

"I am saying that Calderon does not seem to understand the workings of democracy," Pimentel said. "He is acting in plain himself above the civilian government. He should probably study constitutional democracy because he is trying to prejudge an image of superiority in civilian authorities."

Pimentel said that since democracy was restored after the 1986 People Power Revolution, the Marines or other security forces assigned to the Senate had been used in enforcing all Senate orders. With a report from Julie Lobo Aurelio

SC gag order . . .

Front page A1

tions of his favor to Abbas.

"I am sending a letter to Associate Elmo asking the Supreme Court to clarify the reports regarding what happened yesterday when orally interpreted, as he has in everybody because we do not want to create misimpressions," Yap said in a phone interview.

Mutual agreement

Blues had told reporters after Wednesday's hearing that "none of the parties is allowed to talk" on the issues raised at the Supreme Court.

"There is a gag rule on the issues. You can't interview parties, which will be a violation of the ruling with contempt," Blues had said.

The Supreme Court ordered that the investigation being conducted by the Senate government corporations committee in the supposed dissipation of the assets of the Philippine Commercial International Bank (PCIB) be suspended pending the court's ruling.

The high court also suspended the effectivity of the arrest warrants issued by the Senate and allowed Sabio to go home for the Ramadan season.

Villar said the three justices—the Supreme Court, the Senate and the PCIG—had agreed that those should be a "consultee" on the PCIG issue to allow the court to rule on the matter. He said the senators were honoring the agreement by not commenting on the merits of the issue.

Avoyo's concern

Villar said the SC justices had scrambled the Senate side before issuing its order.

One of those present said Chief Justice Reynato Puno had asked Sabio during the oral arguments to be "extra cautious" in the presence of the Senate should the court rule against him. Sabio said yes and Panganiban suggested that the gag rule.

But Sen. Jokes Arroyo expressed reservations that "we have very talkative PCIGG commissioners" who could spin off different interpretations of the SC order. That was when Panganiban suggested the gag rule.

Separation of powers

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he was worried about the gag order as it "may have crossed the line of the principle of separation of powers" between the legislature and the judiciary.

"I'm sure my opinion has valid constitutional basis, at least on the issue of separation of powers. Maybe the Senate should start looking at itself as well as its own functional prerogatives," Lacson said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the suspension "is a very compromise decision" and that this did not at all mean the high court would rule against the Senate.

The Senate will pursue its other investigations, according to Villar, Pimentel and Lacson.

The gag order is purely for the PCGG (probe). They are going to continue with other investigations," Villar said.

Collective relief

Different Senate committees and currently unclaiming investigations into the meeting-examinations leakage, the funds of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the Technical-Skill. There are quite from the suspended of the "Hello Garci" scandal, the 2004 electoral fraud and the NorthRail project.

Other members of the house actually greeted with relief the court's suspension of the inquiry into PCGG.

Rep. Richard Gordon, who chairs the inquiry, the medical staff who searched over Sabio, and the legislative policemen who had been crying to crack down defiled PCGG officials noiselessly hurried a sigh of relief now that they had been released, albeit temporarily from their tough tasks.

"We've relieved from the daily hearings, which I wanted to do because there's somebody here under a restriction," Gordon said, referring to Sabio.

Heart of the matter

"But we intend to still again these people to account for their acts," Gordon said in a hint that the evidence can be obtained by the committees showed that the PCGG has been remiss in its duties," he added.

At the crux of the dispute is the exercise. Under Sec. 5 issued by President Aquino in 1986 granting PCGG officials immunity from testifying in legislative, judicial and administrative proceedings.

Sabio and the other commissioners insist that order is relative to the PCGG's mandate.

"I felt relieved after being informed that he was released. Now we can rest," said Dr. Marivic Blanida, chief of the Senate's medical and dental services who often worked the night shift and assisted with emergencies in looking after the 70-year-old Sabio.

Senate sergeant at arms Jose Balajadia said: "We have eased the numbers."

For days, Senate policemen and security guards, nurses, doctors, barbecue addresses and barons of the debate officials.

The high court has ordered the contending parties to submit their memoranda in 15 days, after which it is expected to issue a ruling on the matter. With a report from TJ Burgonio

PCGG commissioners back at work

Front page A1

"It feels really good to be back and we are going to buckle down to work," Javier said reporters.

Sabio said he was glad he was finally able to sleep soundly in his home. Gorri said they would invite friends again on their jobs "because now many things to do for the Filipino people and our country."

All the men crowded out to redeem a gag order from the Supreme Court on the issue of alleged irregularities in the sequestered Philippine Commercial International Bank (Philcomsat).

Happy to be back

A smiling Sabio arrived at around 10 a.m., half an hour after Sarlo, Javier and Gorri discussed up.

"I am happy to be back," Sabio said, dressed in a white barong and dark blue slacks. The others wore short-sleeved shirts and jeans.

On his way to his office on the second floor, Sabio was greeted by staff.

"Welcome back, Sir!" women called out to him. Sabio smiled, waved his thanks and shook hands with the male staff.

All around the PCGG building, the air was hot in employees posted "Welcome back!" banners.

Freedom and Sabio's health

"We thank God for giving us our freedom," said Rhoda. "We thank the Supreme Court justices who helped to give back our liberty and freedom. It's a great back to the bank from being work at our offices."

He also sounded philosophical.

"Freedom is like your health. You will never know what you are having until you start losing it. It's easy to take it for granted," Abrado said.

Sabio said Sabio's eyes bagged around the thought of no enlarged prostate, which his doctor had discovered during his recent medical checkup.

Better a whole man

"I would rather die a complete man than half a man," he said. He refused any suggestion for a biopsy to determine if his prostate was cancerous.

"I leave it to God," the soft-spoken PCGG chief said.

"In the meantime, I will devote my time to my work in the PCGG and my family. All of us want to live a little longer. I am happy with my life, my work and my family. We are all married and at least we can face the ultimate test of judgment. We will do what we can and we will work harder."

Sarlo said they would all get to work immediately on "big cases," like the disposition of the shares from the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the coco levy cases and the Paysang sa Pinoy property.

Marcos cases

"We will be busy with the re-instruction of the pending cases. We will also focus on the settlement with the Marcoses and the cronies," Sarlo said, referring to the family of the late ex-dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Last week, the Senate issued warrants of arrests against the "PCGG 11" for refusing to attend its hearings on supposed irregularities involving the assets of the Philippine Commercial International Bank (Philcomsat).

They invoked Executive Order No. 1, the law that created the PCGG, which says no official can be compelled to appear before any inquiry on matters related to their work.

On Tuesday last week, Sabio was arrested in his office by a Senate security team. The others went into hiding.

The other day, the Supreme Court suspended the arrest warrants and ordered a halt to the Philcomsat hearings at the Senate.

No to abolition

The PCGG, created in 1986, is in charge of going after the alleged ill-gotten wealth of the Marcos family and their alleged cronies.

Commenting on calls for the abolition of the PCGG because it had not accomplished what it was set to do, Javier said she was "struck by the perception of some people that we are not doing anything. On our part, we are just concentrating our work."

"We firmly believe the PCGG should continue doing its work," Sabio said. "The abolition will require a law to be passed by Congress. That is the law."

Sabio said the public had yet to hear a "satisfactory explanation of the good that we are doing here."

Final say

Abrado explained that if the PCGG was abolished, "this could lead to the return of the (sequestered) companies to the (Marcos) cronies."

Sabio said only the Supreme Court could compel him to return to the Senate to testify.

"It all depends on the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will set the limits to the powers of the PCGG and it has the final say. But I'll still attend the hearings, we will continue to state the position that we have taken."

Referring to the PCGG's petition to the high court to stop the Philcomsat hearings, Sabio said he and the other commissioners "are confident the Supreme Court will do what is right."

The usually flamboyant and outspoken Abrado looked relaxed and rested, while telling reporters that there was no need for himself "went down" his months interviews after his brush with the Senate.

Day is complete

"I will never change my character for anything or anyone. What you see is what you get. Maybe I am just passionate in my views," he said.

Abrado, the PCGG commissioner for asset management, found himself in the middle of the Philcomsat mess in which his Richard Gordon alleged that he had received a luxury car from the company.

Abrado said the vehicle was under the name of the company.

Gorri, also looking sprightly, said his wife, who is having a difficult pregnancy" was doing all right.

The Supreme Court is expected to come out with a final decision on their petition against the Senate in 45 days.

To make their day complete, the officials hosted a thanksgiving Mass in their honor.

"Now they want me in a stand-close on June session.

There's still hope for RP, 3 young leaders find

Front page A1

The results are first shared with the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police, who are usually first on the crime scene.

The NBI and PNP have their own DNA labs but these agencies focus on criminal and civil cases. They collect the key biological evidence needed in the investigation and prosecution of the case.

Paternity tests

The DNA Analysis Laboratory is also called on to do paternity tests in support of cases involving child support, thus protecting the rights of the child and the mother.

"Science must be at the service of society," De Ungria says.

It is this sense of service that convinced De Ungria to go back to the Philippines in 1999 after getting her Science degree from Macquarie University and a doctorate in Molecular Microbiology from the University of New South Wales.

She was 30 years old. Young Gretchen of the Philippines awarded of the National Academy of Sciences and Technology had numerous offers to work in Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom, but she decided to go back to the country.

"At first, it was just to stay for four years to pay for my scholarship at the Philippine Science High School, but I'm still here," she laughs now.

DE UNGRIA

SOLIMAN

HERNANDEZ

New battlefield

Ethalie, meanwhile, came back home for the 10 Military Academy of West Point in 1995, to first up and ready to serve his country, he even kissed the tarmac at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport when he got off the plane.

The second lieutenant from Cotabato City, Cagayan, valedictorian for the Class Sangguo and in 2000, he became a battle during the all-out war in Mindanao.

He emerged from the war in Mindanao with six Gold Cross medals, but his soul had grown weary of the horrors, the killing and the destruction.

"I got out of there convinced I had to fight a different way," says Ethalie, 26.

He found his new battlefield in microfinance when a neighbor borrowed money to pay for a daughter's trip.

When the grateful neighbor paid back the loan, a few weeks later, Ethalie and his wife were elated that they were able to help and at the same time made a little interest on their money.

Time to build

They decided to put up Home-town Corp. in 1998, a microfinance company that started with the couple's last money of P150,000. Today, Hometown has more than 100 branches and a loan portfolio of P200 million. The branches are in the most remote of provinces to service those who have no other access to credit.

As Ethalie's business grew, he also got promoted in the military.

Ethalie is currently the operations officer of the 5th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army and branch chief, Army Integrated Staff. He is responsible for integrating the last rebel group Ermado Balnig's Guddiwa People's Liberation Army rebels into the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

At the same time, he serves as director and senior of the Mindanao Council for Peace and Development, which some 45 percent of the shares of the microfinance company.

The foundation aims to build a culture of entrepreneurship in the remote areas of the Philippines.

"I want to just destroy things," Ethalie says. "It is time to start building."

The mission

Balay Mindanaw Foundation Inc. officers and staff members their most intense meetings in a place they call "the room—out room—room."

They went to remind themselves that it is the culture of peace they are trying to institutionalize in war-torn Mindanao.

Balay Mindanaw, a Cagayan de Oro-based nongovernment organization, got involved in peace work just three years ago.

"That was when we found out that non-violence is life," says its executive director Jessie C. Hernandez, 35.

Since graduating from Xavier University with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy, Hernandez and her colleagues involved in community development work. He was part of the group that set up Balay Mindanaw 16 years ago. Some seven years were devoted to the development of upland communities, as far as its base away from Cagayan de Oro.

Peace work

They got involved in peace work when Balay Mindanaw was asked to be part of the peace negotiations between government and the rebels.

Hernandez says peace cannot just be discussed on the theoretical level. It must be defined in terms of human faces and actual addresses. Having a culture of peace needs a mental transformation.

This is why Balay Mindanaw has been involved in bringing the peace process down to the community level, encouraging community members to settle disputes among themselves.

"We asked them to look at themselves, and look at their biases and prejudices," he says. "They may realize that they are actually part of the reason why there is conflict in their community."

Hope from the young

From there, community mediators emerged to help lessen the conflict and ultimately, get involved in resolving conflicts.

Hernandez says he went through his own transformation process, as he now looks at the military and the government as partners and not "enemies" as he used to.

Balay Mindanaw recently agreed to take on the challenge of training military officers and paramilitary groups on peace.

Hernandez said he hoped the training would eventually reach out to rebel groups and bring about lasting peace in Mindanao.

Aside from De Ungria, Ethalie and Hernandez, the other seven young leaders are Maria Ed T. Lagunzad, Ramon Magsaysay, Martin Basilio Z. Lopez, Jr., Gilbert Cesar Remulla, David G. Resonso, Theresa Rose Mandanas and Eugene Castillo.

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Ex-plotter sees no parallel coup in RP

From page A1

trigger a parallel action here in the immediate future.

Ret. Rabbit, a retired Navy commodore and himself a former coup plotter, yesterday said the ruthlessness among certain members of the military was as such a high level that not even 15 soon groups in a neighboring country would serve to make the discovery.

"If the fever is already very high, adding one more degree of heat will not matter," Rabbit told the business. "But until he hallucinating ourselves if we think they've stopped plotting."

Senate Deputy Majority Leader Ethel Lagman said the chances of a "sympathetic coup" happening in the Philippines was "remote."

He said a coup attempt would not succeed here because of "a popular aversion to extraconstitutional means of subverting the status quo."

Furthermore, he said, Philippine democratic institutions were "well-entrenched, so much so that there is abiding adherence to the rule of law."

"Coups [that] do not follow the pattern of a sympathetic [case] where an internal cyst influences the other," Lagman said.

"The coup in Thailand that ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra does not portend a similar military takeover in the Philippines," he said.

'Viable option'

But for a group of disgruntled officers of the Armed Forces, the successful coup in Bangkok showed that military intervention remains a "viable option" to oust an unpopular leader.

Their officers told the Inquirer that the coup that ousted Thaksin was "an indirect validation [of] efforts to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo] as a means of change in government leadership."

He echoed earlier observations that the critical factor in the Thai coup was the implicit backing of King Bhumibol Adulyadej and the support of the Thai people themselves.

The officers, who requested anonymity for obvious reasons, attributed the failure of past attempts to oust Ms Arroyo to "political patronage" in the military brass.

"She has succeeded in dividing the military's leadership. The generals are in power, and you can't expect them to rock the boat. As long subdivisions [while they are reaping the benefits]," the officer said.

He added that his forces had "recorded dissent through the ranks of the military and police."

But what he and his comrades fear the most, the officers said, are that "the Filipino people have grown apathetic."

"There is no violence and antigovernment rallies of any scope for demonstrations against [the Arroyo administration]," he said, citing the Oakwood mutiny in 2003 and the purported coup attempt in February.

The officers pointed out that the Thai people's massive demonstrations against Thaksin became a "precondition" for the Thai army to oust the billionaire prime minister.

The opportunity will be provided by the people. It will never be the military first," he said. "Ultimately, sovereignty resides in the people."

Last Watering Hole

Rabbit observed that unlike in Thailand, Filipino military rebels had neither a king who would give tacit approval to their cause nor a corps of respected military elders who would tell loyalists to let the plotters be.

"In Thailand, [and the Late Ver, having Bride who gave an support] and guidance," Rabbit said, referring to a clique of influential, albeit politicized, retired generals in the Association of Generals and Flag Officers. It included officers who were generally against the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his imposition of martial law.

"We were confident that the late Gen. Jesus Vargas would call on [like-on military chief Fabian] Ver to intervene," he said, referring to members of the Defense the AFP Movement], "he said.

Vargas was a former AFP chief of staff who was known for his commanding presence even after retirement.

"We have a page out of that family history and its experience with coup when we cultivated the support of the senior officers [in the Last Watering Hole]," Rabbit said.

He said he and his comrades also had the "tacit approval" of the then Manila archbishop, Jaime Cardinal Sin.

"Cardinal Sin was quite influential in that time," Rabbit said.

Ideas, not muscles

Lagman noted that in the Philippines, no military coup attempt had ever succeeded in ousting a sitting President.

"The Philippines has not experienced a successful coup as a precedent, while Thailand has a historical anchorage for military takeovers," Lagman said.

"In the Philippines, we fix ideas rather than muscles. We mobilize opposition movements rather than armaments," he added.

Lagman said the presence of a strong media also tended to "accommodate differing views to clash in a democratic space rather than in violent confrontation."

He said the government's responsiveness to "the imperatives of socioeconomic reforms" had managed to "quell dissatisfactions and quash resistance to government.

He dismissed suggestion that the Arroyo administration was planning to impose martial law, saying this would be difficult to do given "stringent constitutional restrictions."

Prayers, confidence

Malacañang is offering prayers for a swift resolution to the military takeover in Thailand and touting the Philippine military's loyalty and the economy's resiliency to counter possibilities being made between Ms Arroyo and Thaksin.

To illustrate the President's confidence in her staying power, Malacañang announced that she would go on another trip to China next month to cull assurances that Thaksin was ousted while on an official visit to that country.

"We continue to pray for peace and unity among the Thai people as we anticipate the restoration of full democratic processes in the earliest possible time. We are confident that the Thai nation is back on its feet and that the situation is easing," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

"Thailand is an ally of the Philippines in all spheres of politics, economics, security cooperation, and we are strong partners in the fight against terror and poverty in the region," he said.

To dismiss speculation that Ms Arroyo might go the way of Thaksin, Bunye reminded that the military's fealty is the Commander-in-Chief.

"The Filipino people are united behind their democratic institutions, while the AFP and the [police] are one behind the Constitution and the rule of command. The paranoia about military rule is misplaced," he said.

Resilient economy

Bunye also tried to dismiss the looks of the economy from Thailand's by underscoring the Philippines' economic gains.

"We are confident that our economy will remain its resiliency and strength through the sustaining macro for of the year despite the vagaries in the world economy. Even enough we still see the payback to the poor through improved infrastructure, enhanced social services and better utilization for all – as we close the income gap," he said.

An further proof that Ms Arroyo was unfazed by Thaksin's fate, Presidential Management Staff chief Arthur Yap said in an interview with dxMM radio that she would make a trip to China next month as scheduled.

Yap said the President had scheduled more foreign travel this year than in the last 12 months because she had plenty of international opportunities to push for and strengthen the country's diplomatic and trade relations.

With a report from Oil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BLESSING. A Thai soldier puts his hands together in a traditional Thai greeting after giving alms to a Buddhist monk near Government House in Bangkok. AFP/PORNCHAI KITTIWONGSAKUL

Junta close to picking PM

From page A1

street campaigners determined to drive him out.

Hopes that the coup-makers were right prompted foreign investors to record their biggest net buying in the Thai stock market data put out on Thursday.

A day later, however, the stock index was down nearly 2 percent on news the military council was setting up a body to probe allegations of corruption under Thaksin.

Ex-ministers and politicians not keeping would be a particular focus, judges involved onto the panel said, and companies associated with Thaksin that led the stock market fall.

Tax-free deal

The auditor general has already spooked operating probes, including one into whether Thaksin's family legitimately avoided paying tax on its $1.9-billion sale of this line he founded.

Thaksin, whose Shin Corp gave into Thailand's biggest telecommunications group, has denied charges of corruption since tower campaigners began throwing them in his last last year.

However, his family's tax-free sale of its controlling stake in the company to Singapore state investment firm Temasek Holdings in January infuriated Bangkok's middle classes and breathed life into the anti-Thaksin movement.

Thaksin was in New York at the UN General Assembly at the time of the coup. Thailand's first in 15 years but its 18th since it became a constitutional monarchy in 1932.

That media splashed pictures of a smiling Thaksin, hand-in-hand with his daughter, saying not her a stroll in London where while say he is having a "deserved rest."

His colleagues back in Thailand were not so lucky.

Detained Cabinet men

Two more Cabinet ministers ordered themselves in to the Army, joining two Thaksin aides in indefinite custody. The Nation newspaper said they were likely to be detained until the army-led interim government was installed.

Human rights organizations and governments around the world have condemned the coup leaders' curbs on civil liberties.

The military has banned political gatherings of more than five people and the distribution of information critical of the coup on websites or on television, apparently to avoid the spread of rumors of a counter-coup.

Counter-coup

Information Ministry officials said the restrictions meant no broadcasting of MS messages on television programs or calls to radio shows, even traffic stations.

Web masters were told to shut political Web boards for 12 days or risk permanent closure.

Rumors of a counter-coup by Thaksin supporters have been simmering quietly in the background since Tuesday and the Army warned the public against taking them seriously.

However, there was still a limited military presence in Bangkok, mostly around Government House and Army headquarters.

There were also signs of extra measures on roads leading into the city, including a handful of tanks on the highway from the north and northeast where many army units are based.

The coup leaders have also banned "political activities."

The United States said it was dismayed by the loss and was reviewing its budgeted $14 million in aid to Thailand this year.

Reuters

DUSTED THAT Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his daughter Pinthongta pass a British police officer as they leave an apartment in central London where he had gone following the coup that ousted him out of power. REUTERS

Thaksin assets may be seized

BANGKOK—THAILAND MAY seize the assets of ousted billionaire Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, the new military junta said yesterday.

"It's routine consideration we have [as well] pursued" with Thaksin's tax issues, said Air Chief Marshall Chalit Pukbhasuk, the head of the Air Force and one of the military commanders who toppled Thaksin on Tuesday.

The junta earlier expanded the powers of the national police chief, which would make it easier to press ahead with prosecutions against Thaksin and other members of his government.

Thailand's auditor general told local media that she would be ready to complete at least one long-standing corruption investigation within days.

The junta has promised to appoint a new civilian government within two weeks, and promised to draft a new constitution to clear the way for elections on December 2007.

Chalit said the generals were considering at least five candidates to become the new prime minister, but he declined to reveal their names.

"The new prime minister is likely to be a legal expert because he has to implement constitution reforms, while his deputies can oversee economic affairs," he said.

"There are more than five people under consideration, and I expect he will be named soon," Chalit said.

AFP

No makeup, no long nails for women cops

From page A1

According to a memorandum sent to all Philippine National Police district directors, "hairstyles must be plain and even light makeup is not allowed..."

The directives addressed to all Metro police directors, sent a reiteration of an earlier issuance by Police Director General Oscar Calderon.

This time, the memorandum included a guidelines "which must be strictly followed." A weekly report on violations must be submitted to higher headquarters through its human resources department.

"Any violation of the guidelines shall constitute an administrative offense punishable according to the existing policies," the directive said.

Guidelines include:

- Colored hair and colored nails are not allowed.
- Policewomen with short hair must use gel.
- Policewomen with long hair must use a barrette or they must tie their hair in a ponytail.
- Denim pants must not be worn in any time in the office.
- Except for officers assigned in crowd control during mass actions, all policewomen must wear skirts with the prescribed lengths.
- The length of all official skirts must be an inch before the knee with an overlap slit at the back.
- Athletic uniforms must be worn only during events scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The directive, however, did not explain why wearing makeup, colored hair or shoes with laces that go around the legs could stand in the way of police work.

A policewoman who requested anonymity said: "We respect instructions but they must be applied to everyone, not just women in the force."

Makeup enhances a woman's appearance and her powers of persuasion, especially when working in one, said the policewoman while the rank of chief inspector.

"They must review these guidelines and be fair to all police officers," she added.

Nicole turns 23; her wish: Justice

By Tarra Y. Quismundo

WHEN "NICOLE" TURNED 22 LAST YEAR, she marked the occasion with a memorable party at her family's canteen in the company of her closest friends, most of them US Marines.

Her 23rd birthday yesterday was a total turnaround, with her tune up against four US Marines in a landmark rape case that Filipino women's groups consider as a symbol of the prevailing American arrogance over a former colony.

There was no prior announcement that Nicole planned to attend yesterday's hearing. But an hour before the 1 p.m. hearing was to start, she showed up with her mother and 23 of her sympathizers at the back of the cold Makati City Hall, where hearings have been held since the trial began in June.

The visit was quite brief.

Members of Task Force Isulip Hope, a women-led coalition of 17 organizations, gave her the biggest lumpia cake they could get. On it was inscribed: "Justice for Nicole, Justice for our Sisters."

She had barely contained by a fisherman's hat and sunglasses, she blew out her birthday candles and made her only wish: justice.

Later in a phone interview with the Inquirer, Nicole said: "I have come in better know how [US Marines] really are, although I am not saying they are all like that. There are others who know how to respect women. But somehow, I became dismayed with them [in general] after what happened to me."

She said that despite it being her birthday, she could not help but lose her mind on the case, especially in the light of her unedited dispute with the public prosecutor arguing her case.

"It is hard to celebrate, to be happy with all that is happening. I know that there are still many who believe in me, who support me, and I appreciate that. But I am still sad because I still think about the case," she said, adding:

"I hope that even if it's the defense team presenting evidences, I will get justice."

And how has she changed since her last birthday?

"I think I am more mature now in that I chose to fight instead of just being silent. I want to show them that I can fight them," Nicole said.

JUSTICE for Nicole is the birthday wish on the eyes of the 23-year old Zambonga girl who accused four US soldiers of raping her.

Most drunken of 4 GIs ...

Front page A1

Asked by his counsel, Evelyn Umbara, what he meant by "bastidwal," the soldier said he "found kissing, smooching and laughter at the bath."

He said he and Ellewood were seated on the middle seats of the van, Carpentier next to the Filipino driver (Tiburcio Soriano Jr.) and Smith and Nicole on the back seat.

Duplantis referred to Nicole only as "a Filipino female" and said he saw her for the first time inside the van. Van executive Carpentier had come to collect him, Smith and Ellewood from the Neptune Club in the Subic Bay Freeport in time for their midnight curfew, he said.

He said he was just "walking around" most of the time at the Neptune and never saw Nicole while he was there.

He also said he was likely the last passenger to have boarded the van because he was seated near to the sliding door.

Self-explanatory

During cross-examination, Duplantis was confronted by Dr. Ira Santos with a report from the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) based on an interview with him four days after the purported rape.

The NCIS report, Dr. Ira Santos noted, quoted Duplantis as saying he saw Smith "on top of the girl, humping."

What is "humping?" the prosecutor asked.

Duplantis initially said the term should be self-explanatory, but then said it referred to Smith's body "moving up and down."

Dr. Ira Santos also cited portions in the NCIS report wherein, according to Duplantis, the van stopped and he spent a moment "laughing and chewing around" with van cohort Maureen who had approached the vehicle. Corporals Dewey Smith and Albert Lara.

Duplantis maintained that his laughing fit with Smith and Lara was not directed at Smith and Nicole. Later, he said, that roadside meeting turned comic probably because "I dipped over" when Smith suddenly opened the door.

Alcohol consent

Dr. Ira Santos pointed out that according to Ellewood during his own testimony, Duplantis was the "most drunk" of the pack on that night.

"I would say so, ma'am," Duplantis said.

Then, Dr. Ira Santos tried to formulate a question that seemed to have been premised on Duplantis being drunk: "You want the court to believe that what you tell us about the behavior inside the van ... after your drinking 13 bottles of beer ..."

But she failed to complete her question and withdrew it.

Asked what he thought was Nicole's reason for charging him with rape, Duplantis said: "I can't say for a fact what her reason is."

"With that, we thank you for telling your story to the Marines," a sarcastic Dr. Ira Santos told the witness, marking the end of the grilling.

Female witness

Also at the hearing, defense lawyers said they would try to present next Thursday a female witness from Subic, but they declined to identify her, saying she might change her mind about testifying.

Smith's lawyer, Rosario Dino, said the witness might be "demanded by external parties interested in this case" if her name were disclosed this early.

Despite the objections of prosecutors who pointed out that both camps had agreed against the presentation of "surprise" witnesses, Judge Penny allowed the defense luck on condition that the name of the new witness would be divulged at the hearing on Monday.

At the resumption of the trial, the prosecution is expected to cross-examine the defense's expert witness, Dr. Teresita Sanchez.

Diaz said that if they would not be able to produce the contested witness by Thursday, the defense would rest its case.

Dr. Ira Santos said the prosecution intended to conduct a rebuttal, for which it might present up to three witnesses.

After being apprised of the number of latecase witnesses, Perez said he had "plunked well to name a decision before the anniversary of the incident."

Urian

But Nicole's private lawyer, Evalyn Ursua, was finally on some action.

In a one-page motion read into record today by the public prosecutors, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said: "You are directed to allow the private prosecutor to actively participate in the prosecution of the case under the direct control and supervision of your panel."

Asked on the phone whether, in issuing the directive, he was giving credence to Nicole's claim that the public prosecutors were incompetent in handling the case, Gonzalez answered in the negative.

"I have full faith and confidence in my prosecutors," he said.

Gonzalez also said the memorandum meant to address Nicole's complaint that Ursua was "not being made to participate, and given the fact that under the law the private prosecution is under the direct control and supervision of the public prosecutors."

"So I told my prosecutors to let her [Ursua] handle that...let her do the cross-examination if she likes ... or satisfy [Nicole's camp]," he said.

Pressed for other reasons for giving in to Nicole, Gonzalez said: "You know why? ... If this case is lost, for example, the whole blame will be placed on our prosecutors. Even if they did their best, it will not be the judge that will be blamed but my prosecutors, considering the propaganda against [them] now."

Asked whether his memo was intended to deflect blame in the event that the case was lost, he said: "I think they will still say that ... We want to see how good they are."

Balance

Gonzalez said he was "happy" that in Nicole's letter to the Department of Justice, there was no mention of the case of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, who is seeking asylum in the United States.

Last week, Nicole's mother said in his lawyer had warned that the rape case could be traded off with Bolante's case if Nicole did not agree to a settlement—a claim that the public prosecutors vehemently denied.

"That Bolante case was settled already. They themselves know that that story a bill of holes," he said.

And his birthday wish for Nicole?

"I wish her the best...but I also wish her the good sense to understand the prosecution's position," he told the Inquirer.

In an interview with DOJ reporters, Gonzalez said he wish for Nicole was that "she would be a good citizen of this country." With a report from Armando N. Nocum

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Vol. 23 No. 267

Justice at last?

EDITORIAL

IT TOOK ALL OF 10 YEARS, BUT THE FAMILY OF Maximo Lorenzo can at least see a flicker of hope that justice will finally be done—even if only partial justice. The Court of Appeals has affirmed a lower court decision finding Sulpicio Lines liable for breach of contract of carriage when it failed to bring Lorenzo safely to his destination and ordered the shipping firm to pay his family close to P1½ million in damages.

Lorenzo, a geodetic engineer, was among the more than 4,300 passengers and crew members who perished when the M/V Doña Pia, owned by Sulpicio Lines, sank in the waters between Bicolano and Masbateñas after colliding with the oil tanker M/T Vector on Dec. 20, 1987. Although the ship had almost three times the number of passengers it was allowed to carry and although it plowed into a slow-moving tanker, the Board of Marine Inquiry found no reason to blame the shipping company or its crew for the tragedy which has been described as the world's worst marine disaster in peace time.

Several suits citing Sulpicio Lines for criminal negligence have either languished in the courts or have been resolved in the company's favor. In 1992, for instance, a Manila regional trial court decision held Sulpicio Lines "solely responsible" for the accident and ordered it to pay P1.2 million to the heirs of two victims. Four years later, the Court of Appeals absolved the shipping company of any liability and laid the blame for the accident on Vector and Calvin Phils., which had hired the tanker, and ordered them to reimburse Sulpicio Lines for any money it had given to the victims. But in another decision issued early this year, the Court of Appeals ruled that Calvin could not be held liable for the accident.

The latest Court of Appeals decision still does not assign criminal responsibility for the tragedy to Sulpicio Lines. The court merely found the company guilty of breach of contract for failing to bring Lorenzo to Manila as he had paid for. It hardly satisfies the cry for justice of all the families of the 4,386 victims. But it does point the way to finding some semblance of redress after the Board of Marine Inquiry practically allowed Sulpicio Lines to get away with what looked to everyone else like a clear case of criminal conduct.

To this day, Sulpicio Lines has paid the victims' families a pittance for their loss and their grief. Of course, not everyone on board the Doña Pia was an engineer, but if each of the victims would be awarded even just the P1 million in moral and exemplary damages given to the Lorenzos, then Sulpicio Lines will have to cough up billions of pesos in compensation.

If that should sink the company financially, so be it. That might even make local sea travel safer. Since the Doña Pia tragedy, ships of Sulpicio Lines have been involved in at least two other serious accidents. In 1988, M/V Doña Marilyn sank off Leyte amid stormy weather, killing 256 people. Ten years later, the largest ship on the company's fleet, M/V Princess of the Orient, sank hours after leaving the port of Manila, killing at least 85 people.

Then is hardly a reassuring safety record, but the sense is that the government continues to let the company operate. And because nobody has been punished severely for wanton accidents that killed hundreds of people or even thousands, many ship owners continue to play with other people's lives by overloading their boats and sailing even in nasty weather, while the Philippine Coast Guard and port authorities look the other way.

Memories of martial law

SEPARATE OPINION

Dagmar A. Cruz

IT WAS LIKE ANY ORDINARY MORNING ON that 22nd day of September 34 years ago. Incidentally, that has been blasted over that long pull from the past. But I still remember some of the news comic things that made it a memorable adventure.

I woke up early as usual to meet my 7 o'clock class at the UE College of Law in Doherty Law Review Traffic on the way was ordinary with us the weekday rush. The absences were no more unusual than morning but after all it was September and the start of the related week-end. Recreation was finely and nobody got a "few." That morning class, as I recall, was especially large.

After the bell and as I was preparing to go home, a student approached me and informed me that Marcos had declared martial law. I was surprised but not particularly so because people had sort of expected it. Rumors of that likelihood had been rife for days and many thought it was just a matter of time. Speaker J. D. Lazaro Jr. and Dan Flores in Hong Kong the week before, preparatory to going to China, but we postponed it and decided to come home.

On the way back to my house in Marville, I noticed a disturbing sign of things to come. It was the number of soldiers on duty at checkpoints. They were just standing there holding their rifles, but just looking idly anywhere without molesting or arresting people. I think they just wanted to have their presence felt, on orders from their officers.

Later on, in the succeeding days and weeks and months and years, the world got to know the meaning and meaning. But on that first day of martial law, they were not yet shooting.

At home, I found my family anxiously awaiting me, not with trepidation but curiosity. They wanted to know what was happening or what was going to happen. My boys were much younger then, with Dante the oldest only 19 and Gene the youngest just turned 12. Candy was intimidated and effectively cautioned. The local governments fell into line and became the centers of the new regime. The media were censored and public assemblies were outlawed. The Bill of Rights was defeated on the pretext of strengthening the national security.

One thousand Marcos coins on the cover of Time magazine as the new dictator in Asia. The original draft of the 1973 Constitution was revised in toto, the absolute ruler of the New Society it was ratified by the citizens assemblies with an open show of hands located through the barrio of the gun. Every enemy of the dictator became an enemy per se subject to arbitrary execution. Amendment No. 8 rendered the absolute monarchy of the man who could do no wrong.

The bizarre blemish of that dark period that started on that fateful day was the assassination of Ninoy Aquino, nemesis of Marcos, who, nevertheless, refused to flee or defend the acquittal of the soldiers accused of the murder on orders from above. The funeral of the martyred hero was greeted by millions of Filipinos who realized that the bell was tolling not only for Ninoy but for the soul of the nation.

It was the light at the end of the tunnel that led to the people's revolt at EDSA and to the victory gathering at Edsa began with a few hardy souls that grew into thousands and swelled to hundreds from all parts of the entrapped country. Men and women (and children too) from all walks of life, the rich and the poor, teachers and their pupils, poor and peasant alike, and even the old folk. In her wheelchair, all joined as one in welcoming the return of their lost liberties.

Sept. 21, 1972 started for us an ordeal of slavery made more odious because it was imposed upon us not by a foreign tyrant but by a fellow Filipino. Ilan that reared taught us a lesson in the defense and exaltation of our freedom!

Satire

WHILE SOME MEMBERS OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD are satisfied with Pope Benedict XVI's declaration about his speech in Germany others will call for an apology, while some continue to show off with violent demonstrations and death threats.

Islamic extremism has mobilized to show its capability to gain hegemony over the Muslim world, to show just how strong it is while claiming how the West remains weak and fearful.

FOREIGN COMMENT

During the crisis caused by the universal outrage displaying Prophet Muhammad), Europe has suffered the most convincing aggression against its freedom of expression since the days of totalitarianism and, for the most part, the conflict was won by the aggressor.

Europe has tacitly acknowledged that from now on, the freedom to use satire can be applied to everything except Islam, where, in compulsion, self-censorship is a duty. Carrière della Sera (Milan, Italy)

Parliamentary lessons from Thailand and Hungary

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THEY TOLD US THAT IF WE JUST SHUFFLED TO a parliamentary system, there would be no more coups. They told us that if we but shifted to a parliamentary system, there would be no more "constitutional crises" and "constitutional impasses." They told us that many other good things would happen if we but shifted to a parliamentary system (the end of poverty, the beginning of wealth for all). So now we put up a motion to the first two benefits mentioned above, and "then," I refer to Speaker Jose de Venecia et al.

Nothing like a show-and-tell to put a point across or to demolish it. And the events in Thailand and Hungary are come-to-jesus. Thailand has just experienced a military coup that toppled the elected government. It had been a year-long several "people power" demonstrations against the now deposed prime minister. People in Hungary have been going to the streets to force their prime minister out. (They found out he had lied, making out the economic conditions in Hungary to be better than they were.) Both countries have parliamentary forms of government. So much for the claim that a parliamentary system automatically provides political stability.

There is an irony about the person Thai citizens, which should not be lost on us. The Thai opposition claimed that they were fighting for democracy, that Thaksin was killing it with his authoritarian leanings, that he "refused to accept fundamental democratic values like transparency, honesty and freedom of speech."

"Our country has entered the dark Ages led by the most powerful politician since military dictators ruled the country in the 1950s and 1960s." This was how a political opponent described Thailand under Thaksin.

But what have they gotten for their efforts? Their country is now under a military dictatorship which has gagged the media, banned all political meetings with five people, postponed elections—for an indefinite period of time.

Meanwhile, a "Democratic Reform Council" calls all the shots. Isn't it strange that the most undemocratic or anti-democratic situation is, the more it uses words like democracy and reform?

Just seven months ago, a similar thing occurred in, but we escaped it. Thanks to elements in our military who refused to fall to earth the plotters, and, yes, to the Arroyo administration for its handling of the situation. And while Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo can thank her lucky stars that she survived the coup attempt, the Filipino people also have every reason to be grateful. Given the same response to the threat from the military thrown, would be better than GMA, and I will show you an idea who would not hesitate to use of the issue to spin his face.

Besides the difference (at least for the present) in those political fates, there is one other difference between GMA and Thaksin: the latter was far more popular than the former. He and the party he founded (Thai Rak Thai) won handily both the 2001 and 2005 general elections, with the 2005 elections giving him an even greater majority in parliament (377 out of 500 seats, from 248 in 2001). Even when he called for snap elections early this year, it was widely accepted that he would win again, albeit with a much reduced majority—which is probably why the opposition chose to boycott the elections and caused the political stalemate that provided the opportunity for the coup.

But either than that, there are rather striking similarities between the political circumstances and policy choices of GMA and Thaksin, some of which may be deliberate rather than coincidental. GMA seems to have admired Thaksin's political and economic acumen; both Thaksin and GMA, at one time or another, were faced with the same accusations hiding their wealth (be to transferring shares to family members, friends, even servant/ guards; the to putting titles in the name of in-laws); giving patronage to old school friends; using government resources for electioneering; resorting to vote-buying in the building of a new international airport.

They both have faced down large demonstrations mounted by the opposition, which both Filipinos and Thais seem to disfavor (in Thailand, 87 percent of the respondents were against the demonstrations in favor of the call-line); they both have faced large swings in popularity within relatively short periods of time (GMA experiencing more meteoric declines); they both have won loyal supporters vote into recession critics; they undoubtedly count loyal government men and the unemployed, populations that which they get most of their support.

That is not all. Both have been accused of autocratic tendencies and actions (he as a dictator, she of sweeping martial law); their electoral victories have been under attack (successfully in Thailand, where all election commissioners were forced to resign; unsuccessfully here); charges of extrajudicial killings have been hurled against both administrations (2,300 killed or disappeared in his anti-drug campaign, including deaths due to military establishment-connected insurgents).

One of the most important (and most criticized) items of GMA—to allow state agencies to grant funds as part of giving the poor easier access—is pure Thaksin.

Thaksin, with all his popularity, has been kicked out of office. GMA, with all her unpopularity, remains. Maybe, just maybe, democracy runs more than skin deep in the Philippines. Something we should be proud of. And should protect.

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
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Fallacies

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cassayan

THERE ARE TWO FALLACIES ABOUT THE recent military coup in Thailand going around. One is that it ended without any serious coup harm; the other is that it's a right thing the parliament ousted, which operated in Thailand today. If the coup does not bring about the stability that Thaksin Shinawatra advocates have been crowing about.

For one thing, the recent Thai coup is part of a long saga. The Thai monarchy has ruled the country's politics since 1932, when a bloodless coup by the Defense Secretary Pibul Song Khram and others got handed to Bangkok, and it will be how two key leaders of the Thai military would face each other, just like in the movies about old fascist battles, but without the blood, and some is saying, for the other hand, is this. Khet Lagmat pointed out, "It is 49 yrs. the ideas further than Thaksin, no tradition opposition movements rather than armaments."

* * *

Thailand's parliamentary system is a young one, and the recent military adventurism is an indication of the need for it to mature. How mature is the country's parliamentary system can be. Britain's, there's plenty of dissatisfaction with the political leadership, but any hint of military intervention is unthinkable. Thailand's political system has been characterized historically around the world as fragile and absolutely unnecessary, in a country for supporting the leader step in its place. Attempt being one military because of Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad's reign. But the recent coup doesn't take anything away from the parliamentary system. We ought to condemn this system at the earliest possible time, so that it can mature in its unstable fashion in other Pakistan democracies.

* * *

Earlier I used the shockwaves that many democrat of Filipino salaries who watched the most democratic country for decades, as well as the Philippines, may have just transferred to another kind of "democratic economy," which is its highly successful tourism industry. This is because most of the democrat of Filipino salaries who watched the latest inaugural gala in the hotel and allied industries. But there are also many income earners whose salaries deteriorated and have languished, who considered to remain predominantly that of economic uncertainty and have languished, who considered to remain predominantly that of economic uncertainty and coming work ethic.

Many income have are coalition of members, "haciendas," and business financial institutions. In Bataan's Aquino, who left as a UP professor decades to the early 1960s to pursue scholarly degree in political science at the University of Hawaii, Urdu, who earned her doctorate degree at Cornell University, decided to stay in Honolulu. Her political law in Manila in 1972 "enhanced" her then. I have urged her to put her wealth of knowledge about the islands in a socio-historical book. Both which she could do but I don't remember how.

* * *

Perhaps the most successful is former reporters Joel, Benjamin Constantino, the only Filipino-American to have run for the Senate in the past. His father, Inocencio, went to Hawaii from Urdaneta, Pangasinan, in the late 1940s with his two young sons, Jess and Benjamin, and married in the local cemetery. Jess attended Punahou School in a "Barack suburb" and soon after married his high-school sweetheart, Lorraine. He took odd jobs to raise his family. One day, he won $1,000 in a lottery and decided to go to college. He was the first Filipino-American studies at the UCLA and a law degree at Loyola University, with the help of Lorraine who worked as a waitress.

Returning to Honolulu in the early 1970s, Jess was appointed by Democratic Gov. John Burns as the Hawaii Housing Authority. Subsequently, he entered politics where he served for 28 years. Other notable Filipino-Americans in Hawaii's resource is the state legislature, he has the lieutenant governor in the state of Governor Waihe, made to explain the definitions and concept of those code words. The "pedophile" is a bastion, and words like "democracy" jump to the conclusion that the story is about a foreign — usually an old white male — who preys on Filipino children. In fact, in most literature, as well as in the media, the pedophile is a man who have a congressman or a political bum who was convicted for having sex with a 12-year-old.

Important are studies that show that most pedophiles are straight men, both married and with their own families; abusive parents is usually attached to children. And that there are pedophiles among Filipinos, too.

"Pedophile" also often refers to foreign sex predators, again preying on poor Filipinos. Little attention is made of local sex predators that prey on their own women and children, because they are straight men. The Philippines is the happy emerging ground of foreign pimps and customers — as if we did not have our own homegrown pimps and organized sex trafficking operations.

Next, "child prostitute" often connotes the image of a street, street-savvy juvenile sex worker, with implications about their willing participation in paid sex, and that they consider "themselves" sex workers.

* * *

WHILE we agree suggestions on how media coverage of trafficking could do better.

First, we get rid of words with "foreign" colorings. Media researching and writing the book "Nightlife Journeys: Filipino Boyfriends Through the World of Trafficking," recommended media to research what they mean by a foreign boyfriend. Many fucking before being trafficked abroad — from their small towns to bigger cities, then on to Manila, before they were shipped out of the country, domestic trafficking finds global trafficking.

Next, we could do our attention to other aspects of the issue: the demand for sex workers, the underworld women and children vulnerable, issues of gender inequality and the human rights of women and children, and the issue of male violence against women. We could look for a growing pool of trafficked women and children.

If the media are to cover trafficking as a "crime," then they should make the effort to "follow the money" that fuels trafficking. Who are the traffickers? Who are the sex-tourists, and not only in the case of "sex-for-visa" arrangements, but also in the case of "mail-order bride" arrangements

Pope's speech taken out of context

ISLAMIC KIND OF TOLERANCE

For other religious beliefs it is historically known and widely perceived. While the intolerance and other religious generally preach peace and forgiveness, Muslim fundamentalists often issue jihad and fatwah orders against each other, including those who offend their religious sensitivity.

I may not agree with the Pope on many issues, and I have a number of Muslim friends. I can, however, object to its being unjustly condemned by many misinformed and pretentious among our Muslim brothers. I understand that he just quoted a Christian emperor's view of Islam centuries ago. What he said was woefully taken out of context.

Among Christian churches Roman Catholicism is the most ecumenical and most tolerant of Islam—notwithstanding the fact that the Crusades were mostly Catholic undertakings to achieve Christian supremacy over Islamic secular dominion. I believe, it is Islam's respect for the Blessed Mother, whom other Christians ironically ignore. A Muslim friend told me that the Blessed Virgin Mary, called Maryam, appears in one entire sura (Ch. XIX) of the Holy Koran!

—FERNANDO L. SORIANO III,
420 Sto. J. Panaral St.,
Sarmiya, Metro Manila

LETTERS

STREET protests go with the international condemnation of extrajudicial killings

Facts speak louder than Usig's claim

RE: IN BAYAN MUNA VEHEMently condemns the malicious imputations made by Task Force Usig and the Philippine National Police about Bobi Mendiola and lawyer Melchor Raven who, they alleged, were murdered by their colleagues in our party because of "frustrated opportunism." Due to facts, these two agencies are serving craven propaganda machinations to cover up the responsibility of the Aquino administration in the extrajudicial killings, and lose like the professional lawyers they profess themselves to be.

In truth, both Mendiola and Ravena were outstanding leaders of Bayan Muna and we are exceedingly proud of their exemplary record as mass leaders. They were respected members of Bayan Muna and of their communities. Mendiola was about to attend the historic provincial anniversary celebration in which she was invited by the governor's pivot of the good standing of our party and our local leaders), when someone aimed bullets in her and her purpose who was also a Bayan Muna local leader.

Ravena was a beloved human rights lawyer in Quezon. Nevertheless, he was also a devoted servant to peasants, many of whom support our party. He was murdered in broad daylight by motorcycle-riding assassins, ruthless and

Ravena was a beloved human rights lawyer in Quezon. Nevertheless, he was also a devoted servant to peasants, many of whom support our party. He was murdered in broad daylight by motorcycle-riding assassins, ruthless and

—BENJAMIN PAGUIA JR., M.D.,
chair; NATIONAL AWARDS
SECRETARY general, Bayan Muna,
133 Scout Rallos St.,
Kamuning, Quezon City

Waiver and its non-issuance

OUR PEOPLE ARE STILL watching the unbecoming brawling Pres. Gentleman Bike Arroyo, his wife Mikee and his mother Iggy. There is no question that they are openly supported by President Mocoy Duterte. The President even went on nationwide television challenging Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano to admit that he made false accusations, or to resign in disgrace. Tsismis.

The open word we are seeing on public officials does not present a good image of our country before the international community.

Cayetano made a public response to the challenge hurled by the President by delivering a speech in the House of Representatives. He sustained his challenge for the members of the Pres family to sign a waiver that would allow banks to reveal their deposits if any) with the Anti-Money Laundering Council. Pantilo Lacson did when Malacañang and its allies accused him of having undeclared overseas funds in some foreign banks.

The First Couple can then likewise knock off the challenge, saying there is no necessity of any bank deposit is claimed by Cayetano and, therefore, it would be useless for them to sign a waiver. After all, there is nothing to waive.

But by my part, let me say this: Whether you are a minion or a professional, all you need is a simple understanding of the request for a waiver. If, indeed, the Arroyos have no questionable bank deposits, they don't have anything to worry about. Their continuing refusal could only mean that something is being hidden from the public.

—RICARDO TEGO JR.,
San Diego Compound,
Lantikal, Cavite City

GMA's heart bleeds only for her very own family

"I AM BREAKING MY SILENCE because I can no longer allow my family to be pilloried," Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said in the condemned Rep. Dinky Mike Arroyo for breaching the reputation of her family by alleging that they have a secret bank account in Germany.

"The President had to make a statement because it involved the honor and integrity of her family," her lawyers added.

What a statement and to the President get aloof only because her family was being accused of corruption. How about the families of those who have been slaughtered in the spree of extrajudicial killings?

She would have been believable and credible had her actions on policies protected Filipino families and their right to enjoy life and basic and social services, if by her example, she teaches the children the value of truth, justice and democracy.

Unfortunately, up to this day, her presidency remains clouded by allegations of fraud and corruption.

Up to this day, the mothers, fathers, daughters and sons of the victims of brutal disappearances and extrajudicial killings, many of whom dedicated their lives to the cause of justice, peace and human rights, cry out in vain for justice. Though their work was never humanely rewarding, their lives were a shining example of pure, genuine service to the people and society. They never clouded over the people's misery, or amassed wealth for personal gain. They supported no one, empowered no one and disheartened no one. Because of this, all they have to take they were killed.

My actions should have spoken loud and clear for family virtues, integrity and honor when the first act in office that it sponsored that she said nothing and did nothing. And so the killings became a pattern of impunity that, today, counts over 700 extrajudicial killings. How many more children will have to be orphaned, how many more parents will have to lose their sons and daughters, how many more families will live in pain and agony and terror?

So Mr Arroyo is pained because her family has been accused of keeping secret accounts in a foreign land. Well, let Mr Arroyo tell that to the wife and children of Bebot Italia Sr. Boys cello was assaulted, tied, and later found dead in a creek with multiple gunshot wounds; to the children of Engr Leonardo Cano without body, 22 bullets were pumped; to the wife and kids of Rev Edison Lapuz (who was gunned down inside their house); to the wife and children of environmentalist Bob Calubaquib (who was shot dead in a public place); to Rasul Bailan, Fausto Catbato (on two killed right in the cradled her mother but managed to flee life); and to the families of the rest of the victims.

By her statement, The President has clearly shown she has a heart only for her family but none at all for the rest of the Filipino people.

—ARNOLD DOLUGA,
general secretary,
Kapatirang Gintahan Para sa
Buhay Kaginhawaan, INSAP
679 Edsa Quezon City

Cayetano's skewed logic

SEN. ALAN PETER CAYETANO has accused First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and President Macapagal-Arroyo of stashing away millions of dollars in a German bank. Where indeed on power his accusations, if it remains in office (and I will prove it, if you supply me the evidence of your German bank deposits by waiving your privacy rights on it as their depositor.

If a waiver is first required to prove Cayetano's accusation, then it follows that Cayetano does not have the evidence to back up his. The accuser need not prove their innocence. The burden of proving the accused is guilty rests with the accuser. This is as Cayetano. I think Cayetano's logic is all skewed.

—CARLOS ESTEBAN II,
carlosest4321@yahoo.com

Efren 'Bata' Reyes a true ambassador of goodwill

THIS IS IN REACTION TO HEGAR Tarnished's Sept. 13 column, where he compared Manny Pacquiao and Efren "Bata" Reyes in the matters of money, fame, prestige, limelight and welcome accorded to them when they came back to the Philippines after a victory abroad.

I thinked failed to cite the following:

Both Pacquiao and Reyes are true ambassadors of goodwill. Reyes is considered the world's top billiard players, each of them enjoys many accolades; country's Mayor of Reyes is the greatest billiard player who ever lived, and as a man, "loved by the people of the world regardless of nationality." Reyes is a true ambassador of goodwill, so indeed he has been included in the Billiards Congress of America Hall of Fame. He has been sought by billiard players for his autograph and some of his games.

—BENJAMIN C. MEDALLA,
mdmedalla_ret@yahoo.com

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Martial law just a page in PMA's history book

MILF negotiator warns gov't of emergence of radical group

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—The chance to raise not the dark memories of martial law, resurrected the attention of soldiers and cadets of the Philippine Military Academy on Thursday.

Armando Tigas, director general of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), the government-controlled ... "Tagalog ... forces" moves here for academy personnel as part of a nine-campaign to maintain job opportunities for our families.

But cadets were still assigned to hone up on that piece of history, now that the Thailand army had imposed its own martial law, according to members of the PMA support contingent.

Ret. Brig. Gen. Ricomendez Duque, PMA assistant superintendent, said some of the LOI5 cadets enrolled here were even born during martial law, which the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos imposed in 1972 and which he lifted in 1981.

Duque, who entered the academy in 1973, said 33 years is not a long time to keep this memory alive. "Maybe the question now should be asking is whether lifting about martial law is still relevant ... We've matured. We are no old material. The democratic space is already here," he said.

"I myself forgot about [the annual commemoration of martial law] until I was reminded when I saw the newspapers," he said.

But he said the academy has a policy to keep the cadets well informed about issues that have a bearing on their careers, to help insulate them from politics including "that foreign gaming no like PMA] in the midst of controversies."

Duque said cadets were briefed about Marcos' martial law regime to teach them one valuable lesson, "We are telling our cadets today: 'Where you are in that situation, you should be able to distinguish what is right [from] what is wrong ... because we have a feeling that not everything can be taken as is correct," he said.

He said this kind of lesson is important for cadets because "these are young officers who are often beholden to senior officers who operated under a martial law mindset."

"But everything you see in office or the retired officers will eventually be," he said.

Career-minded cadets, who automatically become junior officers upon graduation, are also briefed by the PMA on the risks of conscience because to disobey will be to break the chain of command, he said.

To the military, "breaking the chain of command] is a mortal sin," he said.

This was echoed by other PMA officials. Armand Imbesat, *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

COTABATO CITY—THE chief peace negotiator of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) warned of the emergence of a more radical group that would take advantage of the impasse in the peace process.

The warning was made as the former president of suburban Cotabato Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) called on the world society to make its presence felt in the peace talks.

Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, OMI, SD has urged rival society groups to "put some light on the present impasse" to the peace process.

Mohagher Iqbal, chief MILF negotiator, said the government peace panel should reconsider its "in the box" position to avoid bigger problems in the future.

"The possibility is always there," he told the Inquirer in a phone interview referring to a more radical group that would take center stage.

"When the peaceful means of resolving the Mindanao conflict is not within reach, there's a possibility that a more radical, more militant group within the Bangsamoro would resort to armed struggle to attain the objective of self-determination," he said.

He, however, stressed that within the ranks of the MILF there are no radical and militant groups, apparently to dismiss claims that a group within the MILF provided sanctuary to suspected Jemaah Islamiyah and Abu Sayyaf members.

"All bonafide MILF members abor the claim of communal," Iqbal said, adding that the unarmed members of the MILF will recognize the organization as the only representative of Bangsamoro people.

But Iqbal expressed optimism that despite the deadlock on ancestral domain, a "meeting of the minds" will soon come and formal peace negotiations would resume.

"We remain open, we have yet clear the door of resolving the conflict through negotiations," he added.

Quevedo, in a statement, said he believed there are always "creative ways" to resolve a conflict.

"Sometimes out there are creative times to help both sides get out of the box. Could such a group [civil society] come together to provide alternative ways?" he said in a statement.

The head of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Jica) said her meeting last Monday with Muslim rebel leaders left her convinced that "they would [to carry on]" down the road to peace.

Jica president Sadako Ogata expressed optimism in the on-and-off peace talks between the government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front, particularly after her group ensured approval to assist members in Mindanao's decades-old conflict.

Ogata spoke to reporters in Manila at the end of her five-day visit to the country which included a trip to Cotabato City to check on Jica-funded projects and meet with top MILF leaders.

She said that civil unrest has way to "enhance the normal" now that Jica, a major donor to Philippine development programs since the 1970s, will have "a new alignment" as part of the International Rehabilitation Team for the peace-torn MILF-base region in 2001.

The IRT had included observers from the predominantly Muslim states of Malaysia, Brunei, and Libya.

Ogata reported that the Japanese government has accepted an invitation from the Philippines and IRT member states to join the team.

Jica's new role in the IRT will reportedly result in increased Japanese aid for Mindanao in the form in health, education, or livelihood projects—or what Ogata called "dividends of peace." Edson G. Fernandez, *Inquirer Mindanao* and Will Conveniencia Mendez

MILF guerrillas patrol their base in Camp Bacayaan, the main MILF base in Maguindanao. The MILF is warning of the emergence of a radical group amid the deadlock in peace talks with the government.

House committee approves P8.9-B budget for ARMM

COTABATO CITY—A CONGRESS committee has approved a proposed P8.9-billion budget for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) for next year, according to Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan.

The budget is 8 percent higher than the region's present budget but only 15 percent of the total amount requested for use to various projects. Forty percent of it is allotted for wages.

Ampatuan said the House committee on appropriations unanimously approved the proposal during a scheduled budget hearing on Sept. 19, saying members of the committee, led by its chair Rep. Amy Ildefonsa, promptly endorsed and approved the proposed budget.

Ampatuan, who led the presentation of the proposed budget of the region, said the offshoot handling of the regional government of the problems that were faced by the Implementing ARMM, particularly on its Government Service Insurance System remittance, was also acknowledged by the committee.

The government also called for the support of the members of the House in finding the means to immediately address the socioeconomic problems of the region, which continues to be a "worse condition compared to other regions in the country."

Ildefonsa, Rep. Mario Aguja, who congratulated Ampatuan for the prompt remittance of the GSIS contributions of teachers, has filed a motion calling for the allotment of P111.6 million to pay for the unpaid GSIS premiums of members in the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Marawi City.

Majority of the members of the appropriations committee likewise recognized this shortcoming and said that they would support initiatives that would move for the additional increase of the region's annual budget.

"ARMM is actually in need of a bigger budget to augment crucial socioeconomic projects that cannot be adequately supported under this proposed budget, which was reduced by the Department of Budget and Management," Ampatuan said. *Inquirer Mindanao*

Landslide pushes jeep into ravine, kills 6

BAGUIO CITY—SIX PEOPLE were killed while three others were reported missing after a landslide in Benguet, Mt. Province pushed a jeep into a ravine on Thursday.

Fred Bringas, an OCD volunteer, said the jeep was on its way to the town proper of Bauko when it was hit by a landslide. Rushed to safe in Barangay Tanglagan at about 3 p.m. Thursday.

Bringas said the male passengers got off the jeep and started clearing the road. It was then that another section of the road was loosed, a 40-to-50-meter deep ravine, he said.

Active seismic lobe, whipped landslide occurred and pushed the jeep to the ravine.

The fatalities were taken to the hospital while those still missing in the clearing operations, Bringas said.

They were Arnold Atmen, 28; Annie Dominico, 27; Leilani Dawsen, 29; Nardo Gregorio, 30; Venancio Gayochan, 59; and Virginia Tanog, 30.

The OCD said Rony Bagsafan, 36, the jeep driver, and two men remained missing.

At least seven other passengers were hurt and were taken to the Mt. Province District Hospital and the Ramon Magsaysay Hospital.

Halsema, feared to succumb to the Province, can be reached after a 12-hour drive from Baguio City.

Landslides are a common occurrence in many parts of the province.

Magallian Road, which is a route commonly taken by commuters and tourists, is also prone to landslides. *Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

GMA restores direct lending to RP's poor

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has revived a program allowing government agencies to lend money to the poor after she was told that only 20 percent of the credit through major banks from government funds, or up Malacañang officials said Thursday.

Secretary Arthur Yap, head of the Presidential Management Staff, said Mr. Arroyo is broadening to four months a larger microfinance project that will allow more government institutions to engage in direct lending.

The project will also be offered to government employees who face unemployment under a retrenchment program that the Palace wants completed by year-end.

Yap said the agencies do not lending service will ensure retrenched workers that "there a life after government service when you receive your retirement pay."

Mr. Arroyo was earlier criticized for issuing Executive Order 858, which restricted to government line agencies the authority to offer small loans to the livelihood programs.

Three agencies' direct lending portfolio was discontinued because low borrowers' account-date debts. Yap said later on Thursday at the inaugurating six state-subsidized "Unlad kan Hotels" stores.

No recourse

"Many complain that if government lends, no one will pay it back," he said. "They're criticizing the President. So, you already not recourse with the government."

But Mr. Arroyo had no other recourse, Yap said.

"[Mr. Arroyo] said 'What can we do?' 'There are still about 60 communities that have [no access]' to micro-finance and we have to help [the poorest of the poor]," he said.

Yap said some 97 percent of Filipinos have access to micro-finance institutions, but "their penetration rate is only 20 percent."

"From 2002 to 2006, the micro-finance programs of the government's wholesale lenders [like] the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Land Bank of the Philippines has released P42 billion, but we didn't feel [its presence] and we are not reaching [others] that way," he said.

Yap said Mr. Arroyo categorizes four constituent units that need assistance in reaching the country's many ills.

"Of the low very critical concerns of our people, it is always health, it is always education, it is always employment, it is always [the] lack of the services, it is always [them] [concerned]," he said.

Both local security and employment are addressed by the service's "Tindahan Natin" program, he said, which encourages entrepreneurship with up the country's poor work generation.

Yap, also presidential adviser on job generation, said the micro-finance program being held and by Malacañang would be offered to 1M "Tindahan Natin" operators nationwide to help them [operate operating capital. Marvin Galorosa, *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

PRESIDENT Arroyo walks with an unidentified official in Malacañang.

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INQUIRER Visayas

BLACKENED by bunker fuel, these mangroves in the shoreline of Barangay Igbit-Igbay in Mount Valencia, Guimaras are lucky to have survived the oil spill last Aug. 11.

Unwanted: Guimaras 'mousse'

By Elena Labrao and Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

THE "CHOCOLATE mousse" in Guimaras oil spill is not a delectable dessert.

The globules of oil and water are products of emulsification formed by a mixture of small droplets of oil and water, while being caused by waves.

Photo existing the viscous oil. Mobi barber makes the "chocolate mousse" sticky and less free flowing. The blobs sink, giving a false impression that it is gone and the threat to the environment has ended.

Scientists say the clean-up operations of the Aug. 11 oil spill caused by the sinking of the MT Solar 1 tanker carrying 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel oil southern Guimaras may have resurrect the unsightly blanket of black matter on the beaches of some coastal villages, but its effects remain.

Bunker fuel oil is toxic, viscous, corrosive, pollutive and persistent and does not degrade rapidly. In fact, chemical dispersants are not effective against it.

Clean-up crew

In a recent file meeting on the biophysical aspect of the environmental disaster held at the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SeaFDec) in Tigbauan, Iloilo, on Sept. 15, scientists said the bunker fuel oil's potential hazard must be made known so the clean-up crew and the local residents become aware it is harmful when absorbed through the skin or when inhaled.

A discussion paper on "The Nature of Oil and its Fate in the Marine Environment," prepared by Rita Leandro Miclat and Marvee Nemenzo Montañez of the University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute in Diliman, Quezon City, was presented before 30 scientists and marine-science experts.

Montañez and Montaño said the fate of the oil spill depended on several factors—the volume spilled and the prevailing climatic or sea conditions, and its viscosity. Unlike kerosene and gasoline, which evaporate faster, bunker is considered a thick residue.

Evaporation, caused by warm temperature, rough seas and high wind speeds, only removes 5-25 percent of the bunker oil spill, said Miclat.

Oil sheen

Tossed by the waves, it breaks into droplets of varying sizes that subsequently form a sheen or thin film called sheen.

The beach clean-up crew can wipe or wash out the oil if it clings to boulders, rocks and debris but not if the oil has sunk beneath the surface.

Authorities have banned the use of dispersants in Guimaras in the wake of reports that some companies have been dousing their chemical products, including dish washing liquid, on shallow waters.

The government's Task Force Guimaras established recently a verification and assessment system to ensure that these products could undertake cleanup operations without harming the environment. Early this month, the Environmental Technology Verification Protocol (ETVP) was set up as a means to evaluate, assess and test any product or technology before such are applied on oil-affected areas.

The oil spill has tainted 100-220 km of coastline, spoiled 1,100 hectares of marine reserves, smothered 454 ha of mangroves, and affected some 16,000 people.

Bio-remediation

"In order to effect the bio-remediation, one has to be very careful in using microorganisms as a cleaning agent," said Julius D. Amador, environment regional executive director in a statement. The US Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) defines bio-remediation as the natural processes to clean up harmful chemicals in the environment.

Microscopic bugs or microbes that live in soil and groundwater like to eat certain harmful chemicals, such as those found in gasoline and oil spills. When the microbes have completely digested these chemicals, they change them into water and harmless gases such as carbon dioxide," said the US-EPA in its "Citizen's Guide to Bio-remediation."

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and four companies already presented their products or technology on Sept. 9.

Bio-safety

Those companies are Bio-Logic, with its liquid solution for degreasing and dispersant; Tawfi International Corp. with its liquid all-in-one plant derivative solution; Stanton Pharmacal, Inc., with its liquid solution named Envirozyme; and Allen Specialty with its powder and liquid solution known as ABI Hydrocarbon.

Their ETVP applications are now being processed by the DENR main office in Metro Manila, in close coordination with the Department of Science and Technology.

The Task Force Guimaras has created the subcommittee on bio-safety early this month, which is tasked with human testing systems and procedures to evaluating products and technologies for remediation.

The creation of the subcommittee, headed by Amador, resulted from a recommendation of Dr. Rafael D. Guerrero III, executive director of the Laguna-based Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development.

A panel of scientists from the academe, private sector and other agencies will evaluate the products, said the DENR statement.

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PCSO forms team in war on 'bookies'

LUCENA CITY—TO ELIMINATE the operation of illegal bookies riding on the popularity of the small-town lottery, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office is forming STL Task Force to combat the rampant unauthorized collection of bets in areas where the government-sanctioned lottery operates.

Rocky Quiñones, PCSO manager of special projects department, said the STL Task Force aims to segregate the legal lottery game from the illegal operations.

"Once and for all, we will eradicate the bookies and jueteng games that have been sabotaging the STL operations. These illegal numbers game should be stopped," Quiñones said in a phone interview.

He said the planned task force will be composed of operatives from the PCSO and the Philippine National Police.

STL collectors in this city have all threatened to stop soliciting bets because of fear following the arrest of 19 of their colleagues in Pagbilao town on Tuesday.

"We have been assured by the PCSO that the STL operation is legal. But why did the police still arrest our companions? What's the purpose of our IDs if these will not be honored?" one of the STL collectors said.

The bet collectors interviewed requested not to be identified in the story.

Confusion

They urged the PCSO and the police to end the confusion.

"We don't want to remain in jueteng collection and again live the life of always running away from the police. Even if the STL commission is low compared to jueteng, we're ready to stick to it," the STL employee said.

"But we need assurance and protection from the government," said the collector.

On Tuesday, 19 STL collectors and employees were arrested by elements of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-anti-Illegal Gambling Special Operation Task Force based in Camp Crame for conspiracy and jueteng in nearby Pagbilao town on allegation that the suspects were engaged in "bookies and jueteng" operation.

Jailed

The suspects landed at the Quezon provincial jail and were charged with illegal gambling.

However, Quezon provincial prosecutor Diane Sanvicente dismissed the charges and ordered the release of the detained STL workers.

"The evidence presented showed that they are really legitimate STL employees," Sanvicente said.

Jose Gonzales, operation manager of Pacuarto Corp., the franchise holder to run small town lottery in Quezon, said their lawyers were now preparing to file the criminal charges against the police team.

"If the authorities really want to wage war against jueteng or bookies, why pick only Quezon? Why not in Batangas, Cavite or Laguna? What is so special about Quezon that they spared the others in provinces where jueteng is rampant?" Gonzales said.

Quezon police chief Senior Supt. Mercelito Earnigan Jr. declared Quezon to be jueteng-free.

"What we have to some avoid are STL illegal bookies. But we're waging war against them," he said. —Delfin C. Mallari Jr., inquirer Southern Luzon

P3M-P5M IN LOST INCOME DAILY

Guimaras plans alternative livelihood

By Hazel P. Villa
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE PROVINCIAL government of Guimaras is finalizing plans outlining alternative livelihood projects for residents affected by the Aug. 11 Petron oil spill and who are dependent on the sea and its related ecosystem for their livelihood.

The Provincial Economic Development Office said the plan for alternative livelihood projects is in its final assessment stage and will most likely be released this week.

"Generally, the plan focuses on related livelihood and starts with food-for-work and food security programs," said Rubyn Corpuz, provincial economic development officer.

Roughly the size of Singapore at 60,165 hectares, Guimaras, with its five towns, is also known as the "Mango Capital of the Philippines."

It has a population of 153,000 with 80,000 people living in coastal areas.

The provincial fisheries profile says Guimaras has 737 aquaculturists, 5,586 municipal fishermen, 338 commercial fish workers and 316 fish processors.

Fishing dependent

Residents directly dependent on fishing numbered 9,191, said the profile.

After MT Solar 1, carrying 2.130 million liters of Bunker fuel oil for Petron Corp. sank on bad weather in the Tañon Strait, the province's fishermen have been bereft of daily income estimated to reach P3 million to P5 million.

Corpuz said the alternative livelihood program being framed is agriculture-based.

He said that in a house-to-house survey in affected barangays, the fishermen have proposed livelihood projects like livestock, vegetable-raising, coal preparation and cart-and-carry.

"We are also looking at the capability of women and children for long-term livelihood programs," said Corpuz in a telephone interview Tuesday afternoon.

SWAMPED: Guimaras island was the first to be hit by the Petron oil spill. The blue water mixed with bunker fuel, turning it into a slimy hue of green and brown. Some dead sea turtles were seen floating along these waters. AUDREY ALCANTARA/INQUIRER

Corpuz said the Association of Bagasi Producers and Guimaras produce have discussed the possibilities of a dry-up siltation Culmaranayo will be safe-guaranteed for food processing and Christmas decor-making.

"We are checking the livelihood skills available in the community and the schemes good for them," said Guimaras Gov. JC Salerman Nava in a television interview Tuesday evening.

"We need projects to assist our people recover their livelihoods. Two of our main economic drivers—tourism and fishery—have been rendered inactive. The environment that sustains us and buoys badly damaged," said Nava in a statement posted on the province's official website (www.guimaras.gov.ph).

Collaboration

Carlos Fua, Petron's health, safety and environment manager, said Petron has also come up with its own alternative livelihood program for the affected villagers but it was waiting for the province's own with which the oil refiner will collaborate.

The island province, created in 1992, is surrounded by rich fishing grounds, which include the Guimaras Strait, Iloilo Strait, Panay Gulf and the Visayan Sea.

It is also home to the Taklong island National Marine Reserve and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center's Research Station.

Project Seagrow said fishing is a major economic activity in 34 barangays, with at least 2,840 fishers who principally use non-motorized fishing craft and gear consisting of hook and line and gill nets. Seaweeds are also providing additional income to coastal families.

DOH chief says RP needs no outside help in fight vs dengue

NUMBERS: residents in Baguio prepare briefing charts and other materials on dengue. EDGAR SUSADA/INQUIRER

BAGUIO CITY—HEALTH SECRETARY Francisco Duque III said the government does not need to secure funds from other countries to stop dengue.

Addressing a forum here on Thursday, Duque said the country has enough drugs with generic names for the cases.

Malaria, rabies, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS are among the diseases that rank most of the funding from international institutions because of their global impact, he said.

Among the international funding institutions that support the campaign against these diseases are the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Program.

Duque said the government has allotted P50 million to contain dengue.

"The Philippine capacity to handle dengue on its own is probably adequate and does not necessitate any international funding support," he told reporters here.

He, however, stressed that dengue remains to be a public health threat. Cordillera, Western Visayas and Calabarzon are most severely affected by the disease, he said.

Duque said the WHO, through its representative, Dr. Jean Marc Olive, has collaborated with the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences-Bangkok, which has agreed to provide the Philippines with latest polymerase chain reaction (PCR) results of dengue samples.

PCR is a confirmation test for dengue where the results can be obtained in a few minutes.

But Duque stated that PCR can only best work during the early stage of dengue. It can detect severe strains but it cannot manage without patients, he said.

The WHO is training medical doctors on dengue management, helping the DOH in implementing community mobilization against dengue, and funding the printing of dengue information materials.

Globally, 100 million dengue cases are reported every year. The Philippine cases are small compared with those of other countries, said Duque, who was here to monitor the dengue situation in the city.

In fact, dengue cases in the Philippines have decreased this year compared to last year, he said.

The DOH-Cordillera records show that Baguio City has the highest number of cases in the region with 613 of 56 percent of the total cases. Benguet ranks second with 395 cases.

The disease was reported in 120 of the city's 129 barangays. —Beatrice Galvan, Inquirer North-ern Luzon

Health execs worry about rise in Cordillera kids' obesity

By Danna Dumotilo
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—WHILE THE GOVernment has focused on thinning undernourishment among schoolchildren in the Cordillera, nutritionists here are also concerned about the increase in the number of overweight or obese children in the region.

Micaela Delfonso, regional coordinator of the National Nutrition Council, said obesity is an "impending problem" in the Cordillera.

"When we talk of malnutrition, it's not just undernourishment but also now the overnourished. Obesity poses many health problems. It may cause hypertension, heart problems, and some types of cancer," she said.

Delfonso said Baguio City has the highest number of obese children at a rate of 2.47 percent in the preschool level alone. This, she said, contributes to about two cases of obesity for every 100 children.

The city has 44,639 preschool children.

Delfonso said their records showed 906 cases of obesity but the number could be higher because not all children in the city were weighed.

She said while obesity is usually associated with more affluent communities, this condition is also present in poorer communities, such as in Kabayan and Sagpaya.

In 2005, she said Kalinga was second in the region with an obesity rate of 2.32 percent or about 768 obese children out of 33,262. Apayao came next with a rate of 2.13 percent or 347 out of 16,743 schoolchildren.

She said the classification is based on the International Reference Standard, which is used to chart normal weights according to age and height, regardless of the differences in body build among different races.

Delfonso said obesity is caused by changing eating patterns and preference for fast food products that are high fat and high calorie diets.

She also blamed inactivity as one of the culprits behind obesity.

"Children are also less active when there are television sets, computer games and Gameboy (a portable game console). When you eat, you have to burn," she said.

But as she parents stress about lifestyles remain simple and active, Delfonso said local nutrition committees must have more action sites.

She asked local governments to strengthen their food nutrition committees and identify nutrition officers to implement programs and policies to address obesity-related problems.

In other countries like the United States, health experts also said more children are becoming obese.

In an AP report, the fourth rate of

obesity for children and teenagers in the US has doubled in the last 20 years, while the rate for preschoolers has increased by 50 percent.

Dr. Richard Carmona, US surgeon general, was quoted as saying that one-fifth of American children are likely to be obese by 2010, yet the federal government killed a promising program that portrayed exercise as cool.

Other officials in the US say risks of childhood obesity are scary-obese and lack sufficient money, the researchers said Wednesday.

The institute found some encouraging signs that the increase in children's health is being taken seriously. Programs that target youngsters' growing waistlines are sprouting nationwide, it said.

But it is unknown which programs really help kids slim down, the institute said in calling for research to identify the best methods. —With an AP report

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NEWS

HOMELESS AETAS
A family of Aetas huge for alms from passersby at a pedestrian overpass in Iloilo City.

Cops arrest nursing board examiner

By Alcuin Papa

A FORMER MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF Nursing was arrested Thursday night at her home in Bagumbayan, Taguig City, by police for estafa and illegal recruitment.

Virginia Madeja, one of the examiners implicated in the alleged leakage in the 2005 nursing board exams, was arrested at around 8:30 p.m. by elements of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

But Madeja had no inkling as the Philippine National Police General Hospital after her blood pressure rose. She had complained of shortness of breath.

Senior Supt. Asher Dolina, chief of the CIDG National Capital Region unit, said several warrants were earlier issued by Manila Judge Godfrey Pedrajas against Madeja for estafa and large-scale illegal recruitment.

The arrest warrants were based on a complaint filed by Sheila Lyza Bathan-ado, Francis Gavino and Karen Abram, all registered nurses from the Intercraft.

The complainants said they were recruited to work as nurses abroad by Madeja who introduced herself as a manager of the Med-Care Staffing Services. They said that Madeja duped them into paying $500 to $900 for a job abroad.

Later, they realized there were actually no jobs available for them. They also said the company suddenly closed down.

Police managed to trace Madeja when her name surfaced in the recent nursing board exam scam. Madeja had appeared before Congress and the Senate during their respective investigations into the controversy.

Dolina said that a verification with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) revealed that the company was not registered to recruit nurses.

He said that as soon as Madeja's health improves, they will turn her over to Pergamet's court, which will decide where she will be detained.

He had was recommended for Madeja's temporary liberty, Dolina said.

AFP MODERNIZATION

Camp Aguinaldo for sale or lease

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IS EYEING TO sale or lease of some of the country's military camps, including the Armed Forces general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, to raise money for the military's equipment needs.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. said he has asked Congress to authorize him to sell or lease the properties in the proposed National Defense Act.

"We're open to the sale of Camp Aguinaldo," he told a Manila Overseas Press Club forum in Makati on Thursday night.

One lane-rail reporter, the 360-square-meter, older a long-term lease of the 277-hectare Camp Aguinaldo—which sits on prime property in Quezon City and could easily be worth billions of pesos—but "only if there is a good proposal."

Defense and military officials, however, agreed that offering the sale or lease of Camp Aguinaldo was a long shot.

According to Cruz, before Camp Aguinaldo can be leased out, government must find an alternative site, perhaps a "smaller but suitable compound near Metro Manila," to house the headquarters of the Department of National Defense, the Armed Forces and the armed services.

He said the possible sites for such a new place could be Fort Bonifacio in Taguig, Laverna City in Quezon or the former Clark Air Base in Angeles, Pampanga.

Some in the military and defense establishments, however, have expressed misgivings that the proceeds of such a sale might not go to the military and defense needs.

"They said what happened to the ₱7.8 billion that was raised from the sale of war reserve land in Makati and Taguig that formed part of the army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio in the past decade. The money, supposed to be earmarked for the Armed Forces modernization program, had somehow the government's general fund instead of being spent exclusively for the AFP.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. also said the proposal to sell Camp Aguinaldo "still has a long way to go."

He said that of the country's 15 military camps, Fort Magsaysay in Laur, Nueva Ecija, the headquarters of the Army's elite Special Operations Command, "was a "candidate" for conversion into an agri-commercial complex.

"What we need now is not new camps. We need basic equipment for our squads," Esperon stressed.

The 15-year Philippine Defense Reform program that started last year requires an allocation of at least ₱50 billion each year for the basic acquisition of equipment, tanks, aircraft and sea vessels.

CRUZ: Money will be used to buy new military equipment.

METRO plus
Editor Boker G. Dipanupat

SUSPECTED ROBBERS
A soldier and a police were arrested by the Manila Police District for allegedly robbing money-changing shops in Ermita, Manila. The suspects were identified as Cpl Jaime Castillo, 29, of the Philippine Army in Fort Magsaysay, Palayan City, and Ronald Galea of Makatiku Village.

Atienza special assistant resigns

Faces murder charge

By Margaux C. Ortiz

MANILA MAYOR LITO ATIENZA's special assistant, who allegedly shot to death on July 12 a deputy sheriff in Tondo, has resigned.

Jose Noli Sugay was the earliest in the killing of Aries Luris, 27, of Coral Street.

The Manila mayor's special assistant was formally charged with murder, two counts of homicide and illegal discharge of firearm before the Department of Justice on Monday.

Nonetheless, Sugay, Atienza's secretary said Sugay submitted his resignation letter last Sept. 19.

Moore said, in the two-paragraph letter, Sugay thanked Atienza for allowing him to serve the city of Manila.

"I believe that was a good move on his part, considering the amount of negative publicity he has been getting," Moore said.

The city official added that as administrative cases were filed against Sugay because there were no complainants against him.

"He is no longer connected with City Hall as a consultant or adviser," Moore said.

Sugay, whose job at City Hall was to receive complaints against barangay officials, policemen and city employees, had worked at the office of the Mayor since 1999. He was one of 20 special assistants.

Sugay was identified by witnesses, including Luris's mother, brother and 9-year-old nephew. The shooting allegedly stemmed from a petty parking dispute.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Two barangays in Valenzuela are dengue hotspots /A20

No treatment without deposit? /A20

Suspected bogus food products seized /A20

Stray bullet kills student

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A MANILA POLICEman allegedly killed a morning student when he fired warning shots at cell phone thieves in Sampaloc, Manila.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) filed homicide through no-bail malpractice charges against PO3 Angelo Baron of No. 171 Lemuneza St., Binondo, Manila and assigned at the Manila Police District Station Crime Laboratory.

Investigation conducted by the NBI Special Action Unit headed by Assistant Regional Director Victorio de Guzman III showed that the victim, Marie Grace Raymundo of No. 27 G. Bren St., St. Luis Francisco Subdivision, Barangay Bria, Bulacan, Valenzuela City, was waiting for a ride on S.H. Loyola Street, Sampaloc, Manila around 6:30 p.m. Aug. 10.

NBI special investigator Rolando Canjeno Jr. said Raymundo suddenly fell to the ground, as Baron fired warning shots at three motorcycle riders.

Raymundo died of a gunshot wound in the head at the Almy Clinic hospital.

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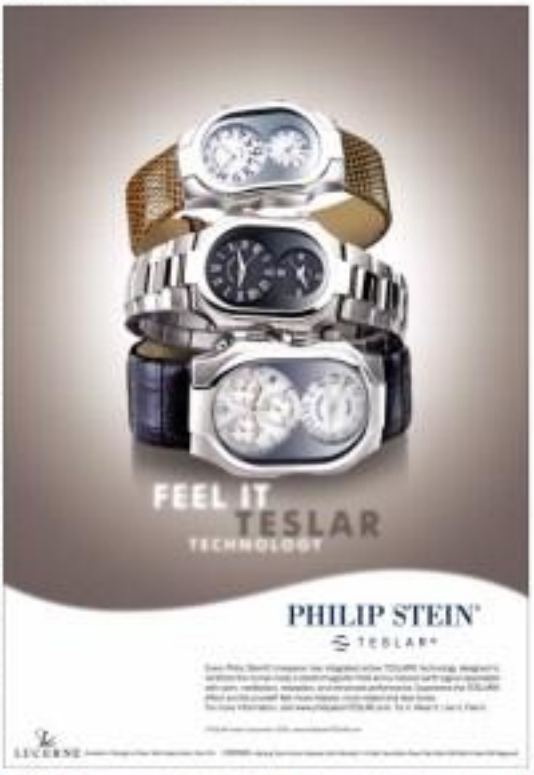

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Clinic allegedly refused treatment to dying child

By Mercy C. Carvajal

THE MAKATI CITY GOVERNment is investigating a clinic for allegedly refusing to treat an infant whose her mother could not give a deposit.

Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay said he will file a month-old girl died while being treated in a hospital in Quezon City.

"I have ordered city hall officials to see if the clinic should be held liable for refusing to treat the girl and its like appropriate charges if [the report was] true," Binay said.

He said the girl's mother filed a complaint with her office.

In her complaint, the mother alleged a staff member of the local clinic asked her if she would make a deposit before they would treat her daughter.

Unable to give a deposit, the doctors allegedly refused to treat her child.

The mother said when she brought her daughter to the clinic the girl had a high fever and abdominal pain.

The mother was brought the girl to St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City after the clinic refused to attend to her "but by then it (was) too late to save the child."

Peñaranda said there was no excuse for private clinics to deny treatment because the patient or her family could not make a deposit.

HEALTH Secretary Francisco Duque visits dengue patients in Valenzuela General Hospital. The Valenzuela City Health office said there were 651 dengue cases admitted in different institutions in the city from Jan. 1 to Sept. 16, about 68 percent higher compared to the same period last year. LOVE ESTACIO

Two Valenzuela barangays are dengue botspots

By Terra V Quimundo

TWO BARANGAYS IN Valenzuela City were declared yesterday by the Department of Health (DOH) as dengue fever hotspots.

Earlier, the DOH declared as hotspots four Quezon City barangays that consistently recorded a rise in dengue cases in the past few weeks.

Dr. Enrique Tayag, director of the National Epidemiology Center, identified the Valenzuela barangays as Malinta and Marulas. Dengue cases were on the rise in the areas.

Nine other barangays—Dalandanan, Mayson, Ugong, Gen. T. de Leon and Karuhatan—were considered dengue "clusters," as the areas registered two or more dengue cases, Tayag said.

"Dengue are areas where there has been a continuous rise in dengue cases in the last four weeks," Tayag said in a press briefing yesterday in Makati City.

The DOH earlier declared barangays Bagong Silik, Commonwealth, Talipapa and Payatas in Quezon City as hotspots. An epidemic was declared in a barangay in Mayong, Iloilo.

Tayag said 399 cases of dengue were reported in Valenzuela from January to Sept. 16. Of this, 189 were recorded in the last six weeks. Malinta had 68 cases during the period, while Marulas recorded 19.

DOH records also showed that 33,605 dengue cases were reported around the country as of Sept. 13, of which 1,225 were in Metro Manila. Of the 395 deaths, 53 were in the National Capital Region.

But Tayag said the current fatality rate of 1.3 percent was still below the alarming 5 percent of total cases.

He reproved the number of cases to drop by September.

Tayag advised schools, communities and households to practice the 4S prevention measure: search and destroy mosquito breeding sites, self-protective measures, seek early treatment, and say no to indiscriminate fogging."

He said, "You should practice all. It's all or nothing."

Among the known breeding sites of dengue-carrying mosquitoes are containers with stagnant water, old tires, gardening tools and other items left outside the house, and poorly maintained roof gutters.

Tayag advised people to have screens for doors and windows to keep mosquitoes and other insects out, use insect repellent, epoxy insecticides, and light mosquito coils.

He discouraged fogging as the procedure was futile in preventing dengue. He said while fogging could kill mosquitoes, it did not have any effect on mosquito eggs and larvae that could also be dengue carriers.

Thaksin and Ms Arroyo's similarities

ON TARGET
RAMON TULFO

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF Staff Lieutenant Esperon says a Thai-style coup d'etat against President Macapagal Arroyo is "remote."

So long as Esperon is the AFP chief there will be no coup. He is fiercely loyal to the President, having once been chief of the elite Presidential Security Group (PSG).

But what if Esperon is already sold out?

* * *

So long as we don't amend that provision in the Constitution that says the AFP is the "protector of the people," the chief of a power grab by the military will be a formality award over the head of any head of state in succession.

That provision was inserted during the drafting of the 1986 Freedom Constitution when we were drawing up a written bodies' military coup in Edsa I.

That controversial provision should have been made transitory so it would have been strictly an act of the Constitution after the situation went back to normal.

* * *

Granted that Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and President Macapagal-Arroyo have several things in common.

Both are good in economics. Both have been accused of violating human rights. Both were accused of graft and corruption and election-cheating.

Major rallies calling for the resignations of both leaders have disrupted the peace of Bangkok and Manila.

Thaksin was accused of being arrogant and acting like a dictator. Ms Arroyo has been similarly accused.

The only difference between Thaksin and Ms Arroyo is that the accused Thai premier doesn't have a Mike Arroyo.

* * *

Remember Jeff Quesada? He is probably the first quadriplegic (paralyzed in both arms and both feet) who has been convicted of rape.

He, along with his female cousin, was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Jeff is now confined at the maximum security compound at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa and his cousin at the women's correctional in Mandaluyong.

Since Jeff is not a "normal" prisoner, his father Bernardo sought my help in making his lifetime prison stay as normal as his fellow inmates. For example, he should be assisted in the toilet when he answers the call of nature or when he takes a bath.

I called up Juanito Leopando, NBP superintendent, about Jeff's problem and he promised to solve it. He has assigned some inmates to take care of Jeff's personal needs.

My foot, what kind of justice system do we have condemning a complete paralytic to a life imprisonment for a crime that it was impossible for him to commit?

Suspected bogus food products seized

SUSPECTED FAKE FOOD products were seized during a recent raid of a Metro Manila fast food market.

Operatives of the Crime Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police said Wal-Mart, Food 'R' Fun and Ailing Diane retail vs. establishments were found to be selling vinegar and soy sauce with suspected fake brands.

All three stores are located at the Mandaluyong Flea Market on Boni Serrano Street in Mandaluyong City.

Led by Col. Ricardo G. Ibrahimovic, the raiders were armed with a search warrant from Judge Reynaldo S. Bas of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch No. 22.

The alleged owners of the stores promised to cooperate and provide information, which the police hoped would lead them to the source of the goods.

The police said the manufacture, distribution and sale of counterfeit products violate the Intellectual Property Code (R.A. 8293) and could put public health and safety at risk.

METROBRIEFS

Development of Muslim cemetery in Rizal begins

The Quezon City government has launched over the first installment of a P5-million grant to Barangay Payatas the establishment of an Islamic cemetery in Sitio Mulawin, Barangay San Isidro.

QC Mayor Feliciano Belmonte handed to Vice-Mayor Pedro Corpuz a check for P1.2 million during a simple ceremony at the Batasang Kamanyan in the Quezon City Hall Northave. Under a memorandum of agreement, the Quezon City shall share ownership of the cemetery which covered a P5-million grant from the Kingdom of Bahrain.

EJ Fer

USFHAI president arrested for estafa

The president of the United Of Women Associations Inc. (USFHAI) was allowed to post bail yesterday following his arrest for estafa. A warrant for Celso Reyes' arrest was issued by Judge Alfredo Bautista of Pasay Regional Trial Court Branch 116. Reyes posted a P180,000 bail for his release in a phone interview. Reyes said Rolando Bautista, a former USFHAI board member, accused him of keeping almost P120,000 in security guard certificates in 2005.

Jocelyn D. Uy

Game goes from basketball to judicial court

A friendly "battle" on a basketball court may end up in a judicial court. Jerwin Bautista, 21, a Quezon Army Training Instructor at College de San Bartolome in Novaliches, charged Ricky Mendoza, the school's head of security, with serious physical injuries and light threats. Bautista alleged Mendoza punched him on the face during a basketball game on campus at about 5 p.m. on Sept. 14. Bautista was treated for scratches and bruises at the East Avenue Medical Center.

EJ Fer

Alpha Phi Beta national convention

The role of the University of the Philippines Alpha Phi Beta in nation-building and government service will be discussed at the fraternity's national convention October 20-21 at the Bahay Kalinaw Hall, Bantayan Court 1 NEC Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Convention theme is "Honoring the past, strengthening the present, shaping the future". For details, call 8924608 and 9810102, fax 8126928, e-mail pmapublic@yahoo.com, or e-mail pmapublic@yahoo.com 9310859 loc. 7205 (Ariel Bisi, 8924441).

US threatened to bomb Pakistan after 9/11

NEW YORK—THE UNITED STATES threatened to bomb Pakistan "back to the Stone Age" after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks unless it supported the war on terror, Pervez Musharraf's lieutenant said in an interview released Thursday.

Musharraf, whose support for the US-led war in Afghanistan after the attacks was instrumental in the fall of the Taliban regime, said former deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage made the threat to Pakistan's head of intelligence.

"The intelligence director told me that Armitage said, 'Be prepared to be bombed. Be prepared to go back to the Stone Age'," Musharraf said in the interview with the "60 Minutes" investigative news program, according to television excerpts.

"I think it was a very rude remark," Musharraf says in the interview, due to be broadcast Sunday. "You have to think and take action in the interests of the nation, and that's what I did" shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, Pakistan abandoned its support for the Taliban, which now claims, along Afghanistan's borders, and become a frontline ally in the US-led "war on terror." Pakistan has since arrested several senior al-Qaida members including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the 2001 attacks.

The South Asian country has also deployed around 80,000 troops on the rugged border with Afghanistan to hunt pro-Taliban and al-Qaida linked militants who crossed into the area after fleeing the US-led invasion of Afghanistan.

The White House declined to comment on Musharraf's comments, with a US official saying on condition of anonymity only that Pakistan had made "a strategic decision" to help after the Sept. 11 attacks.

PRESIDENT PERVEZ MUSHARRAF

Armitage's alleged threat also demanded that Pakistan curb over border posts and bases for the US military to use in order to in Afghanistan, which leaded with the Taliban regime's collapse in late 2001.

Other "bellicose" demands required Pakistan to suppress domestic expressions of support for militant attacks on US targets, according to the CBS network, which produces "60 Minutes." "If somebody's organizing rallies, we cannot curb the expression of virtue," is quoted Musharraf as saying.

In the interview, Musharraf also reveals an embarrassing episode in which former CIA director George Tenet confronted him in 2003 with proof that the father of Pakistan's nuclear program was passing secrets to Libya, Iran and North Korea.

Abdul Qadeer Khan, held in house in Pakistan for helping to violate the country's nuclear program, admitted giving such secrets in a televised confession in February 2004, expressing a global network of nuclear knowledge.

"Mr. Tenet, well, he, himself, he, proved me some papers. It was a centrifuge design with all its numbers and signatures of Pakistanis. It was the most sensitive piece of equipment," Musharraf says.

It was only then, he says, that he realized that can only fail. Blueprints were leaked, but that wrongdoers themselves...a crucial element in enriching uranium to weapons grade—was not being passed on, CBS said.

Musharraf also says the interview he gave government-controlled television on the eve of the leak.

He pardoned Khan the same month, but the ruling coalition has since moved under house arrest in a leafy diplomatic enclave of Islamabad and denied any public appearances. AFP

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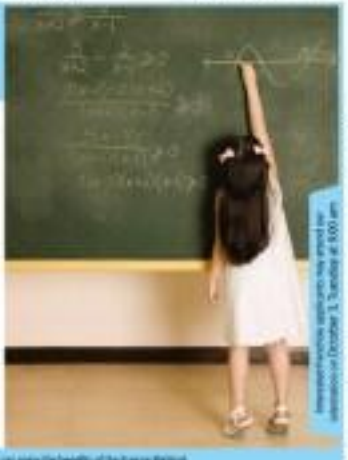

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KUMON

Bush forced to take cover at UN meeting

UNITED NATIONS—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush has had to get his work and put up with one of the most anti-American 60th General debates in recent years.

The annual gathering of world leaders is never easy for the global superpower that quenches by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and years mentioned Ahmadinejad, smacking Bush personally as "the devil," or his policies as "hegemonic," "left a cellphone" atmosphere around the 1957 Hollywood era.

Even a supposed ally, Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf, let fire on the sidelines by daring to disagree with Bush over who rebuilding US forces would be allowed to grab Osama bin Laden if one of the al-Qaida leader were found on Pakistani territory.

"It has been one of the most sterile displays of anti-Americanism in recent years," said one ambassador from the pro-US camp on the 191 country General to describe the private moves by disenchanted and particularly Chavez.

Mercilessly lambasted

The bruising that president once bloody has found by EU leaders with a speech 24 hours after Bush defended his attempts to bring democracy and liberty to the Middle East from the General Assembly stage.

"Yesterday the devil came here," said Chavez, "and it still smells of sulphur today." His act in cursing himself and looking up to point to the slaughts, brought some unsophisticated laughter and applause.

Chavez, whose country is a key oil supplier to the US, also lambasted the issue of Puerto Rico's medium distance, while offering to send more heating oil to poor families in the United States. Chavez called Bush "an alcoholic" and "a talk man."

Bolivia's left wing president, Evo Morales, also made a rebuke his own ID, sometimes by holding up a coca leaf, which is banned in the United States but a staple in Bolivia, to back his protest against the US bombing of its war on drugs.

Ahmadinejad was less personal but no less heated in his judgment of Bush's administration.

In a scathing attack on the United States and Britain, Ahmadinejad slammed the "hegemonic powers" who imposed Nazi era colonialist politics on international decision-making mechanisms, including the Security Council.

While the United States had to the diplomatic advantage for someone upstairs to declare one of its nuclear programs, the Tehran leader highlighted that some of his opponents "have already nuclear technology for non-peaceful ends" and "some even have a bloody record of using them against humanity."

The US ambassador retorts just a boom this is on the attacks, hinting that it is used to bring in the hostilities.

"People will judge this themselves here anyway to take the comments and the people who make them," said Iraq Department spokesperson Chris McCormack.

British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett and Chris Chavez and Ahmadinejad would also have a limited influence.

"It is fairly clear that they are both people who wish to challenge that the US and EU are in some way acting in a particular way and are in some way causing problems in the rest of the international community" Beckett told reporters.

Hunger, disease

But what Chavez and Ahmadinejad said my lead about 15 policies and the need for reform of the United Nations, some other leaders seemed more openly on their agendas in the assembly.

Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva spoke on Darfur's death on Tuesday.

Lula highlighted the hundreds of billions of dollars spent on the US military occupation of Iraq and declared "with much less we can change the sad reality of a great part of the world population" fighting hunger and disease.

Lula said the handling of Middle East politics, especially the Lebanon crisis, had exposed the "dangerous erosion of the UN's credibility and effectiveness." Many leaders appear to think that Mr. Bush is already a lame duck and that learning success is open-ended our diplomats in here think. AFP

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The EPILOGUE Journal Vol. XII-I, series of 2006

The WORLD

Lilia Lorenzo B. Suarez

Violence after 3 Christians executed

Outrage over death of 3 Indonesians who led an attack on Muslims

BALI, INDONESIA—THE EXECUTION OF THREE Christians in Indonesia on Friday brought thousands of protesters to the streets in the hometown of one of the dead, where they freed prisoners and burned an official's house, a witness said.

The three Christian militants were executed by an Indonesian police firing squad early on Friday outside eight security in Palu, capital of Central Sulawesi province.

Fabianus Tibo, Marinus Riwu and Dominggus Silva had been sentenced to death in 2001, after being found guilty of leading a mob in an attack that killed more than 200 people at an Islamic boarding school during Muslim-Christian clashes in the province.

The executed priest, Jimmy Tumbelaka, said they had been officially declared dead at 7 a.m., although police officials said the actual execution was hours earlier.

According to valid information I received they were shot in a sitting position with their hands tied. Tibo were blindfolded while Marinus Riwu refused to be blindfolded," Tumbelaka told Reuters.

The bodies of Tibo and Riwu were flown to their home town while Silva was buried in Palu.

In Silva's hometown of Ambon in West Timor, thousands of Christians prevented in anger over the executions.

A local Red Cross official, Elli Mali, said the demonstrators broke into a jail and freed almost 200 prisoners.

"The mob members in these areas [Ambon] were of the prisoners and they said, 'Tit for tat'," Mali told Reuters.

The protesters threw rocks and burned the local prosecutors' house, Indonesian media and police said.

Jalin Burjen, a policeman in Ambon, told Reuters two policemen were injured but the crowd had begun to disperse.

"The situation is cooling thanks to appeals by religious leaders and the tenth section of security personnel," Deputy national police chief Adang Darajatun told reporters in Jakarta.

In Palu, Bishop Joseph Suwatan, whose diocese oversees North and Central Sulawesi, urged the faithful in Palu to remain calm.

But in the Poso area of Central Sulawesi, where many Christian-Muslim clashes have occurred in recent years, including the incident for which the executees prosecuted, hundreds of protesters rallied against the executions and burned cars on the street, deputy police chief Mitsuris said.

The protesters threw rocks at security policemen, injuring one officer, Kitsuris told Reuters in the early afternoon. "The protesters are dispersing now," he added.

Authorities turned down a request for the executed men's bodies to be laid out in the Santa Maria church in Palu, Tumbelaka said. *Reuters*

FRIENDS: Tibo (left), Dominggus Silva and Marinus Riwu sit during their judicial review in Palu March 9.

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ROYAL BRUNEI

British tycoon pledges $3B to combat global warming

NEW YORK—BRITISH BILLIONAIRE RICHARD Branson on Thursday committed to spending all the profits from his airline and rail businesses—an estimated $3 billion over the next 10 years—to combating global warming.

The Virgin Group chief, whose company also includes music and mobile phone ventures, has already created Virgin Fuels, which will invest $400 million over three years in renewable energy initiatives as part of his pledge.

But profits from the Virgin Group's companies businesses, which make up nearly half the company, will also be spent on expansion investments in biofuel research, development, production and distribution, and projects to tackle emissions through a planned Environmental Trust.

"We have to versus ourselves all our dependence on natural fossil fuels. Our generation has the knowledge, it has the financial resources and, as importantly, it has the will power to do so," the flamboyant 56-year-old entrepreneur said.

Branson, who has a knighthood and is known as much for his daredevil stunts as his business, unveiled his plans at a news conference at the Clinton Global Initiative, a summit run by former US President Bill Clinton to address world problems.

The second annual New York-based initiative, which ends on Friday, has brought together some of the world's richest and most influential people to brainstorm and commit money to fight world problems.

By Thursday night the total value of commitments made was more than $5.7 billion, surpassing last year's total of more than $2.5 billion.

"Richard's commitment is groundbreaking not only because of the price tag—which is phenomenal—but also because of the statement that he is making: clean energy is good for the world and it's good for business," Clinton said.

The pledge comes one day after the Bush administration said it was committing $2 billion to climate technology research and development. Climate experts and members of Congress criticized the administration's plan as long-delayed and inadequate.

Branson said he went to be skeptical about climate change, but reading a lot of books on the issue—hanged his mind.

He declined to commit billions of dollars to the same cause after former US vice president and long-time environmentalist Al Gore visited him in England a year ago. *Reuters*

RICHARD Branson, left, and Bill Clinton.

WHAT'S INSIDE
Jarencio battles former mentor in UAAP Finals /A24

SPORTS
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Lions survive, regain 'NC' title after 28 years

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN BEDA, SQUANDERING A 20-point lead, rode on three hideous homestretch turnovers by a hard-fighting Philippine Christian University to score an excruciating 68-67 win last night and take its first NCAA men's basketball championship in 28 years at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Red Lions, leading 57-37 late in the third quarter, almost choked in the homestretch as the Dolphins clinched a daring fourth-quarter assault that brought the two clubs deadlock.

"It was God's will," said a sobbing San Beda coach Koy Banal in the din of revelry. "When I prayed this morning, He told me to just do it. And we did it."

San reinforcement coming class limit, of course.

Suddenly, the Dolphins were breathing down the Lions' necks with Jason Custer almost single-handedly carrying the fight before capping his fine form with an undergrad foul check-off a Gabby Espinas miss.

That stub pushed PCU to within 65-67 with only 59 ticks remaining.

Nigerian Samuel Ilowo then hit just one of his free throw duallies with 34 seconds left, for 68-65.

That, however, proved enough cushion for the Red Lions, although Custer got the Dolphins as their desperate 157-footer with 20.5 left.

Actually, the Dolphins threw chances to reverse the outcome with three successive turnovers on run-stifling takeaways and an errant pass to the homestretch.

Ring finished absent turned from hero to goat when he made a wayward pass to Ilowo in the next possession, 17-1 left. But PCU's Jhoni Bolgo bungled a hurried jumper with Yosef Alpirsel snagging the rebound. The King Lion hugged the ball as time ran out while the San Beda gallery erupted in the of celebration for the Red Lions' 12th title overall.

CHAMPIONS AGAIN: The long, long wait is over for the Red Lions and their supporters.

COACH Koy Banal gets a victory ride from MVP-Rookie of the Year Samuel Ilowo.

With some members of the 1978 champion squad on the sidelines, San Beda finished its glorious season with 16 wins in 18 games, including Game 1 of the Finals where the Red Lions maneuvered to make it a lopsided series with a 75-57 blowout win.

Among the stars of that San Beda champion team were Chito Loyzaga, Chuck Ramirez and Jayvee Tungcu.

PCU's guns turned hot early with Beau Belga, Gabby Espinas and Jason Custer firing from all angles in the Dolphins took the first quarter, 19-13.

But, unlike in the previous game, San Beda didn't allow Belga to get out of hand. Alpirsel, Regie Meneses and Ilowo hit their marks, with the 6-foot-6 rookie-MVP winner hitting all his first four free throws.

And just after the quarter gap, the Red Lions teamed with scoring 17-6 run fueled by teaming them pointers from Alpirsel, Escobal and Alex Angeles to storm to a 32-24 advantage.

The big pro-San Beda crowd also got into the groove of Belga and Espinas as the duo nearly lost their cool over the referees' call several times.

The scores:

SAN BEDA 68 – Alpirsel 25, Escobal 11, Angeles 8, Dino 2, Mercado 5, Evangelista 4, Sarabosing 2, Magpayo 2, Hernaez 2, Nuyan 0, Tupaea 0

PCU 67 – Custer 24, Bautil 10, Belga 8, Espinas 8, Ramirez 7, Gonzales 4, Lacsina 2, Amparado 2, Santos 0, Chan 0, Abad 0, Ne Ky 0

Quarters: 19-13, 32-32, 57-49, 68-67

MORALES

Morales steps up training for Pacquiao

THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHT WHICH CONFIRMED to Los Angeles, Morales's Erik Morales was promptly at the high-altitude Otomi Mountains in Temascaltepec, Mexico, to plunge into his toughest training for the Nov. 18 showdown with Manny Pacquiao.

Morales arrived in the evening at the Otomi as he resumed his weight-control regimen at the Nikolay Performance Center in California.

"This fight is very important in my career, and I want win this to again be on top of the boxing world," Morales said in his own boxing website.

The Tijuana fighter said he will continue the regimen he started 4th days ago in Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao, who was visibly awed by Morales' lean physique in the press conference, has also started working out at Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym amid talk of big promotional outfits coming his.

The frontrunner to get Pacquiao's services include Oscar De la Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions and Bob Arum's Top Rank. —Jaime L. Laguardia, contributor

BUSYMANITE. Champ over before hope.

Django uses Bata cue stick to keep Bali title

FRANCISCO "DJANGO" BUSTAMANTE RE-

Jockey Samodio remains comatose

By Nerveng R. Castillo

Jarencio battles former mentor in UAAP Finals

By Jasmine N. Payo

JARENCIO

INTRIGUING FINALE: The Tigers go into Game One as underdogs.

Another girl filing sex raps vs PBA coach

IN HUDDLE

Rudy Cuba

Sherwood catches Southwoods

FED GOLF LEAGUE

Rosales 9 strokes off South Korean

Air21 Basketball School begins

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SPORTSWATCH

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Europe takes early Ryder Cup control

Woods first shot lands into water

OTTAWA, IRELAND—HOLDERS EUROPE SEIZED EARLY CONTROL at the 36th Ryder Cup while world number one Tiger Woods rallied after struggling for form over the front nine in Friday's opening fourball matches.

HOMECOMER

Billed as favorites for the first time in the 79-year history of the biennial team competition, Europe made a roaring start to three of yesterday's home rounds at the K Club, leading in three of the encounters and trailing in the other.

Britain Paul Casey and Swedish rookie Robert Karlsson were two up on American Stewart Cink and first cousin J.J. Henry after 12 holes in the second match out.

Although the Europeans lost the second hole to a heavy birdie, they leveled when Karlsson sunk a 18-footer at the third and never relinquished their command of the game in two at the 568-yard fourth to set up an eagle three.

Karlsson was the only player to par the tricky seventh to double Europe's lead in bright morning sunshine after days of wind and rain.

Nationals Sergio Garcia and Jose Maria Olazabal were one up on David Toms and rookie Bryce Molinaro after 11 holes in the third match.

Garcia gave Europe an early advantage by rolling in a 25-foot birdie putt from the fringe at the par-four first before Ulp-storm Olazabal put down two shrewd approach to first feet at the par-four seventh.

Henry, however, trimmed the deficit with a birdie at the 11th.

In the final encounter, European wildcards Darren Clarke and Lee Westwood were one ahead of Masters champion Phil Mickelson and Chris Williams after 10 holes.

Clarke, whose wife Heather died of cancer last month, sparked the biggest roar of the day when he sunk an eight-footer for birdie at the first.

Left hander Mickelson leveled the match at the par-five fourth before Westwood restored in a 16-footer for birdie on 10 to restore Europe's advantage.

In the high-profile first match out, Woods and Jim Furyk were two up on Europe's Colin Montgomerie and Padraig Harrington after 14 holes.

Woods, who has won his last five PGA Tour events, was poorly out of touch early on, hooking his first shot of the day into the water at the first and putting wildly off the back of the green at the par-four fourth.

Over the hump, Woods reached the turn one up with Furyk having birdied the first and also the ninth.

Meanwhile Darren Clarke [illegible] from the 11th, being pure from 11 and 12 feet to put the US duo three ahead before Montgomerie ran the defeat with his first birdie of the day at 14.

Organizers have decided that protected fans—where players can lift, clean and replace their ball on the fairway—will be in operation for the football following the controversial rain that hit the Club on Oct.

REUTERS

TIGER Woods chips the ball from the rough.

RP golfers continue to struggle in Taiwan tilt

GENE BONDOC GARNERED A FIVE-OVER 040 77 at the Taoyuan Golf Club and barely moved up to joint 11th after three rounds of play in the Asia International Amateur Golf Tournament in Taiwan yesterday.

Five-day leader Chen Chih Chiang of Taiwan regained the lead with compatriot Chien Yao Hsiang at 221 after a 74 as the gale-force winds blew away halfway leader Eric Wang-Lowells of Canada, who shot with an 80-80 and slid to third with a 226. Hsiang shot a 77.

Bondoc, who finished the last hole for a 36-39 card, posted a 14-hole aggregate of 230, 11 strokes behind the joint Taiwanese leaders.

Another Filipino Mike Alejandro had 82-226 for a share of 20th place and Gene Sampo had 80-267 and made the final round cut at 47th.

The 80 holes, whose nine here is limited by ICTM and sanctioned by the National Golf Association of the Philippines, continued on Sunday with Lars Roberts shooting an 81 for a 241. Mia Pavia made six 81 for a 246 while Crystal Sapenal had a 92 for a 263.

Today he is primed up for a former sweep as she shot a 75 for a 222 to pace the ladies' side.

Ortiz breaks Red Sox mark with 52 homers

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS—DAVID ORTIZ set a franchise/Major League record for most runs in a season here Thursday, belting his 51st and 52nd of 2004 in Boston's 14-0 victory over Minnesota.

With the Red Sox all but eliminated from the playoff race, much of the excitement around Fenway Park surrounds Ortiz, who entered the game tied with Boston Nomar Garciaparra with 51 homers, set in 1999.

"I think whatever he did it would have been great, but here the fans have been able to show their appreciation," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said. "I think it meant a lot to him."

Ortiz established the new mark when he crushed the first pitch he saw from Twins starter Santana into the right field seats with two outs in the bottom of the first inning.

"[It's] big!" extended the record with a blast to the center field wall in the seventh inning against Matt Guerrier.

"I really thought it was good for our organization," Ortiz said. "I really thought it was good for the game of baseball, especially with all the stuff going on with people believing that there's a lot of players using things that you're not allowed to," Ortiz replied the home and was greeted by [illegible] and congratulated from the dugout. "Big Papi" Ortiz received a long from Red Sox legend Johnny Pesky who was Ortiz's teammate for part of the 1942 season.

The first former was Ortiz's 44th homer as a designated hitter, breaking the major league record that was set last year.

AFP

RUSSIA'S Oxana Rakhmanalina [right] grapples for ball possession with US' Tamika Catchings.

Russia snaps US women cagers victory run at 51

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—RUSSIA STUNNED the two-time defending champion United States, 73-68, in the semifinals of the women's world basketball championship on Thursday and will play Australia in the final.

The Americans' defeat ended their world championship winning streak, dating to the 1994 bronze medal game, at 36, and snapped their string of victories in the Olympics and world at 51.

Russia had lost to the United States in the Olympic final.

Australia, bronze medalists in the previous two worlds, advanced to its first final by beating host Brazil, 88-76.

Russia took advantage of poor shooting and sloppy ball-handling by the US to take a 39-28 lead after three quarters. The Americans closed to 73-68 with 65 seconds left, but after two missed free throws by Diana Taurasi, with 28 seconds to go, the US coach was charged with the 29-second shot clock and Catalina Ponor missed a layup with 12 seconds left.

Rene Kostin made two free throws with 36 seconds to go and Sue Bird scored a layup to make it 80-68. Kostin was the top-ranked Americans in the first round.

Penelope Taylor scored 26 points and Belinda Snell added 22 for Australia. AP

FEU taekwondo jins shine; Aranzanso wins

JACOB MACHOCA HART MELTLE MS Louie of DIT, 4-0, in the final of the welterweight division to lead Far Eastern University's three-gold medal romp on the second division of the Samsung State of the Art National Taekwondo Championships at the Ghotzola in Makati last Thursday.

Startups showed class and fighting savvy throughout their three-round duel, scoring on each his while effectively parrying Antonio's attacks to score the distinct win and bag the gold medal to the first one.

Michael Angelo Nealata topped Carlo Miranda, 1-0, in the lightweight final for FEU's second gold while Rodolfo Reyes edged Dandrick Allan 6-to-4 at FEU-Diliman to cop the gold medal in the bantamweight division of the veteran/peer division of the event sponsored by Samsung.

La Salle captured two golds with Carmelyn Asuncion and Michael Alejandrino pulling off victories in the women's flyweight and men's middleweight divisions, respectively.

The 19-year-old Asuncion, gold medalist in the year's All Women's Open and the 1998/1999 Championships, booted former veteran Rachel Manuel in the final of the women's flyweight division to bag the gold via a 5-0 scoring summary to outlast the veteran's pesky foe.

A bid up in the tournament of results had drummers, a national team teamster losing the match but the organizers announced that it was the lie La Salle boy who actually won the gold medal after a successful title retention bid. Manuel, 20, settled for silver.

Asuncion's earlier dispersal of Natalie Mercedes, teammates Lourdie and Gerry Mangio crowned the final.

Two DIT bets, Justin Hernandez and Nathan Mario Magpoc, ruled the men's featherweight and women's bantamweight classes, respectively. Other gold medal winners were Carlos Padilla of NEU Tigers (Bt), Lennie Velasquez, Jr. of San Beda Brothers, Marites Dimalla of Angeles University (Bt), Rose Ortega of UP (Diliman), and Mona Angeles of Ateneo (Caribou).

Nat'l drag racing championship up

THE RACE FOR THE TITLE OF ICONIC CHAMPS is a close as the 2004 Bud Prime National Drag Racing Championship Series enters the championship round today at the Drag Strip of the Metropolitan Racing Circuit. Some 100 drivers are expected to participate in the 2004 Drag Racing division 14 Traffic Angel competition to come early. Some will be representing Eden Zola of Manila Raceway and Jonathan Toral Team Circus Bay dispute the Drag Racing Driver of the Year award.

Advocacy tilt opens today

A CAUSE-ORIENTED BASKET ball tournament called Rolling Con Philippine Advocacy League tries this afternoon with a six-game program at the San Andres gym in Manila.

Opening cross-meeting at 1 p.m. pro-side action, with Bicolano Bilas Sangre coach Mariano Black and Pinoy-ed Advocacy Sports coach Wanda Ignoto Council Chair Ali Atienza as special guests.

Twelve teams—40 teams each in the Philippine Rong Mahal Dios and Bantay Bata Open Division—will see action in the tournament which has "We play, we care" as its slogan.

Commissioner is Fritz Garcia while Ted Rovina is executive director.

Philippoussis vs Nalbandian highlights Davis Cup semis

BUENOS AIRES—AUSTRALIAN Mark Philippoussis said he was ready for a duel-fight after being drawn to face David Nalbandian in the opening rubber of their Davis Cup world group semifinal against Argentina.

Nalbandian himself remained frankly confident, just as he was earlier in the week when he predicted an easy win for the South American in the tie which starts on Friday.

Philippoussis will have a hostile 14,000 strong crowd and an unfavorable clay surface as he makes his Davis Cup return after a two-and-a-half year absence.

PHILIPPOUSSIS

"I'm prepared for a dog-fight and that is what it's going to be, nothing less," said Philippoussis after Thursday's draw.

Nalbandian believes he has the advantage over Philippoussis. "He's a great player but he has been injured, he's playing on a surface which is very difficult for him and under these conditions we have great chances of winning," he said.

Australia, hosts 9-1 at home by Argentina on grass at the quarterfinal stage last year, is once again outside in the clash against opponents who have not lost a home tie for eight years.

The presence in the Australian team of Lleyton Hewitt, who has had several Grand Slam clashes with Argentine players in the past, has added spice to the encounter.

Nalbandian added: "I believe in this team, I believe our players are good enough to beat anyone and that's 1-1 at the end of the first day. We are going to start something."

REUTERS

SPORTS

Winslow bests Sy in Rd 12

Briton grabs series lead with third straight win as Peña fails to start

BOGOR, INDONESIA—BRITON JAMES Winslow raked Round 12 over Filipino Tyson Sy for his third straight victory over as another Filipino, Dode Peña, remained confined to the sidelines Sunday in the Asian Formula Three series at the Sentul International Circuit here.

Winslow of Jh Motorsport, steamed to his third consecutive and fourth overall victory of the season, clinched Speedtech Sea had driver Sy and Aron Rustiq's Shooter Inspirasi Indonesia.

As a result, Winslow seized the overall lead from irishman Ali Jackson who failed to finish after a collision with Soegiarto in the seventh lap of the 12 laps race.

Winslow, who also won Thursday afternoon's Round 11 in the rain, improved to 147 points to Jackson's 137 and Sy's 142.

"I think I'm kind of unstoppable so far," said Winslow. "The car is running very, very good. But you can never relax, because if you do relax, others do improve and you'll have problems."

Jackson finished second in Round 11, with Sy taking the last podium spot, an improvement on his fourth-place finish in Round 11.

Winslow felt that with his car's power and driver coordination to widen the continent to plague the rest of the field, he could complete a sweep of the six race schedule.

"I think I can, unless they (others) improve a lot," said the Briton, who raced against Fernando Chu driven Rizki Sudiro and Ali Lanwa and Jansen Sutton of Bandung in Formula Reg3 team point ago in Britain.

"I also have to improve; I can't enjoy the wins so much as I want to. I'll always have to think about the next races."

Peña, lead driver of Team Goddard, crashed his Dallara '04 in qualifying last Thursday and his pit crew, despite working deep into the night, failed to get the car

MATAANI'S James Winslow (1) steers the way for the Philippines' Tyson Sy and the rest of the pack in the second lap.

Asian Formula Three Series
Round 12 results
(Sentul International Circuit)

1. J. Winslow	(UK)	13:00.937	
2. T. Sy	(PH)	13:14.008	
3. M. Soegiarto	(INA)	13:15.149	
4. B. Rahman	(INA)	13:26.143	
5. R. Ramadhi	(INA)	13:26.958	

ready by Friday morning. Round 13 was set later in the afternoon.

The team is hoping to get the 19-year-old Peña's car ready in time for Rounds 14 and 15 on Saturday.

While Peña mustered from behind the pit wall, Sy remained the top Filipino driver in the series after finishing second in Round 12 despite driving a 2003 car.

Because he had used the same car in the qualifying session, Sy still have to use it throughout the week. Mechanics continue to diagnose what's wrong with his vehicle Dallara 2004, the car he traveled in a crash in China.

Sy would not play down his chances in the remaining races to bested but said challenging Winslow for the top position open to accident car would be very difficult.

"Sa mga lay, parasabi po ll think there's still a chance," said Sy. "May nagsipuwera po sa standyan at yasanda pong sabi. Pero iyon nagsang bagon. Ainsi po siguro, malaki po (The car can still be fixed and it can compete, but not this afternoon)."

Jackson was disputed after he and Soegiarto, who had been smashing into front Round 10, touched cars in the fifth lap, taking the Irish driver out of the race.

The car's front wing was damaged as well as its front wheels, and it stalled in the middle of the track, delaying the race for some time.

"It wasn't too bad," said Jackson. "The mechanics are working on it and we'll be in time for the later races."

Winslow was to start on pole for Race 13 with Sy joining him in the front row. Soegiarto starts third with Jackson in fourth spot.

Overweight Amonsot stripped of WBO title

By Salvan L. Legentino
Contributor

TAGBILARAN CITY—BOHOL BOXing Organization (WBO) Asia-Pacific super featherweight champion Cesar Amonsot yesterday lost his title without taking a single punch after he failed to make the 126-lb. limit for tonight's 12-round grudge fight at the Island City Mall carpark here.

Amonsot, shooting in as a bloated 128 lbs., refused to get rid of the extra pounds, while Indonesian challenger Simson Bona Hutar, asking for a repeat win over the local boy, came in at 125 lbs. in the weigh-in supervised by WBO-AP vice president for Asia Pacific Leon Panicillo Jr. and the Games and Amusement Board's Rolando Mendoza.

The fight proceeds but, should announce (17-1-1, 10 KOs) prevail, the title will remain vacant, the crown will be awarded to Bona Hutar (14-5-1, 10 KOs) should he again beat the Filipino.

Bohol Hutar scored a controversial win over Amonsot to claim the same title last year.

The digital referee in world-renowned Jesse Mikkelsen of New Zealand, while the judges are Jonathan Jones, Salvan Legentino and Teddy Mitra.

In the third rapport, undefeated Ali Jamal takes on Thai Sing Carryboy in 10 rounds.

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BUSINESS

John Raul D. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

Gov't downplays impact of Thai crisis

Economy much stronger now to withstand external turbulence

By Michelle V. Rorra

ECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY ROMULO NERI has downplayed fears that the political turbulence in Thailand would trigger another Asian crisis, stressing that the current economic climate has made the region more capable of weathering external disturbances than it used to in the late 1990s.

Neri, who is also the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, also allayed concerns on the possible effects of Thailand's situation on the financial market in the Philippines. He said that macroeconomic fundamentals allowed the Philippines to avert a crisis.

"The slight drop in the peso and other emerging market currencies on Sept. 20 is basically a knee-jerk reaction to the coup in Thailand. The images of tanks on CNN were dramatic, but for the Philippine economy, it was just another day at the office," Neri said.

The peso nearly breached the 56-to-a-dollar mark and closed at 54.32 last Tuesday following the government's announcement of a 75.4.3-billion budget surplus in August. The local currency, however, slid a few centavos on news of a military takeover in Thailand that ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

But Neri said the uncertainty created by the political turmoil in Thailand was limited and has already stabilized following the move of the King of Thailand to endorse the new interim leadership. He opined that the Thai economy would not have been the military takeover, noting that the nation has had 17 coups since the end of World War II. The Thais have recovered in record time [illegible] after the coup, he added.

"It noted Asian crisis is one of the picture," he stressed.

The onset of the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s had largely to do with Thailand's economic problems, particularly the resulting depletion of its foreign exchange reserves as a GOVT B2

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Vitarich debt relief plea granted

Malolos court sets Nov. 8 hearing of rehabilitation petition

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MALOLOS, in Bulacan, has granted poultry and feeds company Vitarich Corp. temporary debt relief as it reviews the company's petition for rehabilitation.

In a stay order issued on Sept. 19 and disclosed yesterday by Vitarich to the Philippine Stock Exchange, judge Estelito Mendoza suspended the enforcement of all claims against Vitarich, "whether for money or otherwise."

Mendoztan has also prohibited the company from selling, transferring or encumbering its properties and paying its liabilities as of the filing of the petition last Sept. 15.

The court has appointed Eduardo Bondoc as rehabilitation receiver. Vitarich officials said Bondoc is involved in financial advisory work.

The court has set for Nov. 8 the first hearing on Vitarich's application for rehabilitation.

The court also ordered all creditors and interested parties in the case to comment or oppose it on the petition not later than 10 days before the date of the initial hearing.

Vitarich is looking at two strategies to pay some P1.2 billion in bank loans.

Vitarich said in its rehabilitation program submitted to the PSE that its first strategy involves the restructuring of its debt.

The plan assumes that interest rates will be reduced from about 9 percent to 1.4 percent and the repayment period will be extended from 12 to 15 years.

The second strategy, on the other hand, involves the conversion of half of the debt into "creditor's capital notes."

These notes will give its holders common share-like benefits, such as shares in the profits of the company but without the right to vote.

Vitarich filed its petition for debt relief with the regional trial court of Malolos, Bulacan, where its facilities are located.

It cited financial conversion stemming from the Asian currency crisis of 1998 and the aviarian flu outbreak that slashed sales of chicken.

Global Steel eyes certification to tap local auto industry

By Konrad W. Dizon@gm

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST STEEL MILL on Friday said it had taken steps to secure world-class certification on production standards in an effort to meet the supply demands of the local automotive industry.

Global Steel Philippines Inc. officials said in a statement that the company was applying for the technical specifications known as ISO/TS 16949:2002, which would be the first for a steel manufacturer in the country.

"This initiative is in line with our organizational strategy and (we are) receiving advice from independent consultants on how best to achieve this certification," GSPI said.

"At present the company is in the initial phase of setting up quality management system standards specific to the automotive industry," it added.

"This requires large-scale, systematic documentation compliance and readiness review."

The firm explained that an immediate readiness program review would take at least a year, after which it would apply for a certification audit.

GSPI said some of the benefits of undertaking the ISO/TS 16949 certification included the potential to tap the high-reclaim automotive market in the Philippines and export opportunities to Asian and Southeast Asian countries.

It will also allow the company to maintain world-class process quality, have a consistent quality system approach in supplier development, reduce the need for second-party audit, and have a common language to improve understanding of quality requirements.

The ISO/TS 16949 certification standard was developed jointly by the International Automotive Task Force (IATF) and the national trade associations of America, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Italy and Japan in cooperation with the International Organization for Standards (ISO).

The IATF consists of an international group of automotive manufacturers including Daimler Chrysler AG, BMW, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, PSA Peugeot and Volkswagen while the Japan Automotive Manufacturers Association also took part.

"Saturday's announcement came in the wake of a previous statement that said GSPI was wrapping up supply talks with possible overseas buyers.

GSPI chief operating officer Eli Mobrant had said the company was in talks with companies operating in the United States and Europe who are interested in buying hot-rolled coils from the Philippines.

HRCs are the inputs for cold-rolled coils (CRCs) used in making industrial goods such as automobile components, precision tubes and consumer durables.

The company's plant in Iligan City can turn out up to 1.2 million tons of HRCs a year.

In March, GSPI announced it achieved "full commercial operations" as it had started selling HRCs, which officials said was a move meant full integration of the local steel industry.

GSPI then said the achievement meant that the country could take the first steps toward self-sufficiency in steel products and even become an exporter to markets in the region.

Estimated total imports of HRCs into the Philippines is between 200 and 300 million tons a year, which is expected to decline significantly when GSPI attains full production of its HRC line.

MWSS qualifies bidders for $100-M project

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND Sewerage System (MWSS) has pre-qualified four bidders for its $100-million bulk water supply project.

Malaysian firm Gamuda Utilities Berhad and its local partner BSC Protection Specialists, Taiwanese firm Kinsh Technology Company Inc., and a Manila Water Consortium that includes Vinci Engineering of Italy and EEI Corp. have submitted bids for the 25-year 300-MLD (million liters a day) bulk water project.

The 300 MLD bulk water supply project, estimated to cost at least $100 million, will augment the water supply in the southern part of Metro Manila particularly in Muntinlupa, Pasay, Las Piñas, Pasay and nearby towns of Cavite and Imus, Cavite.

The project targets to benefit some 2.25 million residents and is set to be completed by 2009.

MWSS Deputy Administrator Mario Trinidad the bidders that project proponents are required to put up $10 million in equity and should be majority owned by Filipinos.

The pre-bidding conference will be held on Oct. 26, 2006.

Meanwhile, the MWSS sought the assistance of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) in Taiwan to verify the credentials of a Taiwanese pre-qualified bidder.

The MWSS wrote Meco chairman and CEO Stephen Lin Thompson on Sept. 21, 2006 and said it would like to verify reports that Kinsh's area be involved in two failed projects for the Taiwan Water Supply Corp. in Kaohsiung.

"We would be forming a team to verify these reports and we would need them to be sent if necessary," Cruz said.

According to unconfirmed reports, Kinsh built two major plants for the Taiwan Water Company, which have yet to pass performance test runs.

Those are the Rueisia and Hsinpikeng treatment plants in the Kaohsiung.

"The MWSS would like to know the status of these projects and if Kinsh has really been given a 11-month extension to continue with the project despite an announcement order of Taiwan Premier Frank Chich to rescind the contract of Kinsh," Cruz said.

The four pre-qualified bidders for the project, Simest Mafer Water Project consortium and the Sino Kaohsiung Consortium, have also aired their concerns over Kinsh's participation in the bidding.

Shell seen operating natural gas stations in '07

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER A NUMBER OF FALSE STARTS, THE Shell companies in the Philippines may finally start the commercial run of its mother-daughter compressed natural gas (CNG) stations by May 2007, said the Department of Energy.

"It's not formal, but Shell and they're looking at May 2007 as the latest date for the start of commercial operations," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla told reporters. "It can even be earlier than that."

The start of commercial operations of the mother stations in Batangas and the daughter stations along the South Luzon Expressway in Biñan, Laguna had been shelved more than five times in the past due to technical difficulties.

Shell's last commitment was for commercial operations to start last year.

Shell country chair Edgar Chua had since declined to identify a new target date.

Apart from safety issues in its mother station, Chua had earlier cited the absence of a ready consumer for CNG refilling stations as another hindrance to the start of its CNG projects.

He pointed out that as the country still did not have a CNG industry to speak of, there were no consumers for CNG-related projects.

"The availability of a local consumer is a big factor in implementing such projects. We're now looking to get consumers from countries where there is already a established CNG industry, such as Malaysia and Thailand," he had said.

The delays in the operations of Shell's mother-daughter station had likewise pushed back the implementation of the government's National Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport (NGVPPT), a seven-year pilot program that would peg the price of CNG at P14.32 a liter, less than half the price of diesel, for participating bus operators.

As of the first quarter, there were already 17 CNG-fed buses in the country, plus five sets of chassis and engine. These had already been allocated to accredited bus operators.

The delay in the start of the NGVPPT had resulted in these bus operators incurring a certain cost of money for these buses as they had already taken out loans to acquire the CNG-fed vehicles.

Chua said Shell was aware of this, so the company was now studying out a way to help these bus operators cope with the cost of money.

"We're in discussions with the DOE for this. We'll be providing support to the bus operators in their financing," he said.

Gov't downplays impact . . .

From page B1

consequence of a real exchange rate regime. Because the Thai baht's rate is pegged to another currency, the monetary authorities of Thailand were forced to use the country's reserves to counter the depreciating impact of bank failures.

But Neri said the fact that the Thai baht is now free floating, the while all market crisis was confined to the central bank. Thailand has accumulated a huge pile of foreign exchange due to the growing income of its tourism and car industries, and exports.

Thailand's gross international reserves currently stand at $57.3 billion. Neri said that unless fundamental issues in the latter also surfaced from the Asian crisis and have strengthened their banking systems and beefed up their foreign exchange reserves.

With regard to the efforts of the coup in Thailand to the Philippines, the Neda official said: "We are able to withstand global economic shocks because our fundamentals are much stronger now."

He noted that overseas Filipino workers have brought in $7 billion so far this year, a 13.8-percent increase over 2005. Exports also grew 21.8 percent, he said.

"Revenues from toll centers are up by 60 percent, from different operators," Neri said. Putting these all together, we have accumulated our own pile of $21.4 billion in gross international reserves, a historic high," Neri said.

He added Philippine banks were also stronger due to greater capitalization requirements. Smaller banks merged with the large. The banks are shedding the remains of the Asian crisis, as the ratio of non-performing loans continues to drop. The NPL ratio was 17.3 percent in 2001; it is down to just 7.1 percent as of June.

Shares . . .

From page B1

looking up for the country," said First Grade Holdings Securities Inc. Jaime Antonio del Castillo.

He cited the favorable performance of the economy, which has prompted increased investor interest in the country.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most actively traded stock, shedding 2.6 percent to close at P1,225, after doing 3.9 percent during the previous session. Among other active issues, Ayala Land fell 1.6 percent to P15, after rising 11 percent in the previous four sessions.

Metropolitan Bank dropped 2.4 percent to P46.66 continued profit-taking.

SM Prime fell 1.2 percent to close at P6.36, after rising 3.2 percent Thursday.

Dueling bargain hunters save Bank of the Philippine Islands up 1.7 percent at P50.50, and Philippine Long D. higher by 1.3 percent at P3.80.

Decliners led gainers 57 to 34, while 43 stocks were unchanged. AP

Quotes

Higher-than-expected BOP seen

STUDENTS at Project Pepe compete in an art contest.

'Pepe' does wonders for kids

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IN AN ECOSYSTEM, plants and animals live together in harmony with their environment. And this relationship benefits ecosystem dwellers' survival.

What affects one affects everything else.

It is this kind of mutually beneficial relationship that Ayala Foundation, the corporate foundation of Ayala Corporation, envisions for its partner, Learning Systems Inc. (LSI), when it invests its time, talent and resources through its Promoting Excellence in Philippine Education program or Project Pepe.

Academic ecosystem

Ayala thinkers believe that by creating an academic "ecosystem"—where public and private schools, the local government unit, experts, students and their parents, work together for the good of the students—the quality of education will be improved.

Project Pepe is now being put to the test in its pilot area of south Batangas, composed of the cities of Lipa and Tanauan and the municipalities of Alaminos, San Pedro, Santo Tomas, Taal, Agoncillo, Talisay and Laurel.

First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities in Tanauan City was chosen as the hub school to tie up with 44 schools across the area named as partner beneficiaries of the program.

Project Pepe

As the hub school, First Asia must provide facilities, teachers and training to help the other public and private schools in the area, as well as the students and their parents.

First Asia, for instance, organized contests for students of the Project Pepe participating schools in 2005. These contests promoted teamwork and friendly competition among the participating schools, as well as to reward the most learned students.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

At the top of the list of these contests are the increase in the quality of education, as seen in higher test scores, increase in the population of graduates, and the upgrading of the skills of teachers.

Nicole Chrystine V. Zorga, program director of Ramon Ayala Foundation, says the foundation commissions the programs by helping finance the training materials, facilitating the discussions and providing the guidelines to make the program work.

Scholarships

It also provides scholarships and training to deserving students and teachers.

Zorga says the program will benefit not of the teachers and Olivet's classroom in the field of education over the past 15 years.

Founded in 1983, OLSI is the oldest of Ayala's family of companies. It is the exclusive distributor of leading educational magazines for high school and grade school like Sam Salmi, Hagdan, Salagintan, Mula Sa Puso, Tsikolab, Kalaskas, Bahaul, Magtes, Jamaysay, Tambuli, Mirayup, Banlagan, Mula Talino and Pusta.

Ayala Science, on the other hand, is a nonstock, nonprofit organization appointed to act as Olivet's curriculum department arm.

Among BPO's primary programs are the Accelerated Learning Open To Interact Effective Teacher, Talking to Parents, Talking to Teachers and Quality Teacher competition. The foundation is also involved in various fund raising activities, library improvement programs, awards and recognition programs for outstanding teachers and students, sports activities and environmental programs.

Gonyo e-learning

Through SIBS, Dima is able to build its gonyo e-learning system infrastructure.

"We believe creating academic communities of learning is the solution and framework that we have been looking for," Zorga says.

The program has been in place for just a little over a year, but Zorga says results are already being felt.

"We see that students are more interested in their school work," Zorga says. "They also do not miss school since they know there is always something new to look forward to."

Under Project Pepe, 13 students of Education were given full scholarships at First Asia for the 2005-2006. There were minimum grees on reading and values.

It was also Project Pepe that threw public schools were persuaded the Campus Journalism package to promote the e-learning capability of public schools.

She says Ayala Science is already working on replicating the program in other areas, such as Mandaluyong and parts of Mindanao.

Nationwide

Zorga says the program is also getting the support of other corporate foundations who have expressed interest in expanding the program to their own communities.

"We ultimately want it to be a nationwide program," Zorga says. "This is our two-pronged solution to the problem of quality of education."

BSP projects robust 2006 inflows, says it may exceed $2B

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) reinforced the positive outlook on the country's external liquidity, saying that dollar inflows from exports and overseas remittances will continue to remain robust, and may fetch higher than expected balance of payments.

The BSP expects that the country's BOP position will likely exceed $2 billion in 2006, much better than the official forecast of $1.5 billion made earlier this year.

As of the end of the first half of the year, the country's BOP stood at a surplus of $1.04 billion, better than the $158.79 billion recorded during the same period last year.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said that the BOP is expected to exceed the original $1.5 billion forecast because of gains in the current account, including exports and remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world.

Any transaction that gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident, like importation or debt servicing is a deficit item in the BOP, while any transaction that results in receipt of foreign exchange such as borrowing, exporting or inward remittance is a surplus item.

Current account, which includes net receipts from exports and remittances but nets out spending for imports and other outflows, is a surplus of $2.9 billion in the first half, better than the full-year projection of only $1.3 billion.

Exports reached $22.3 billion in the first half, while OFW remittances reached $6.9 billion.

Exports of the Philippines has grown largely because of increasing global demand for electronics, the country's major export product.

OFW remittances are on the rise because of the increasing number of Filipinos being deployed abroad. Also, most Filipinos now work in top overseas hotel/spa/cruise ship/resort destinations.

Direct investments, which is recorded in the capital account of the BOP is also expected to be relatively strong at $1.5 billion, due to the expected improvement in investor sentiment largely due to the improving fiscal situation of the government.

In the first half, however, the figure still stood at $900 million. The BSP expects investments inflows to increase further in the second half, with the government seen to exceed fiscal expectations.

Transco signs power pacts with 70 distributors

By Abigail L. Ho

THE STATE-OWNED National Transmission Corp. (Transco) has signed transmission service agreements (TSAs) with around 70 power distributors, electric cooperatives and large power users all over the country.

Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said that he would expect all customers to sign their TSAs within the next three weeks, adding that no more deadline extensions would be given to those who would not be able to comply.

"The deadline was supposed to be July 31, but we gave some extensions," Ortiz said. "Ideally, actually, TSAs should have already been signed last year, in preparation for open access and in compliance with the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA).

All Transco customers, including electric cooperatives and distribution utilities, are required to sign TSAs with the state firm.

These agreements are based on the Energy Regulatory Commission's open access transmission service rules, and are in accordance with Transco's technical and commercial requirements for grid interconnection.

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Peza: Investments up 54%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC Zone Authority reported that it has registered some P52 billion worth of investments from the start of the year up to mid. 12.

The amount of registered investments projects is almost high- er than the peso-level in the same period last year is said.

Also, Peza said it recently approved 12 new projects worth a total of some P8.2 billion. The projects will have an expected average export sales of about $75.7 million a year.

Peza director Jesmond Lilio de Leon said the projects would be creating 3,900 new jobs.

De Leon said four of the new projects would export P11.6 billion—would engage in information technology.

Of the total amount registered so far, 12 locators investments accounted for P38.6 billion or about three-quarters, while existing developers registered P13.7 billion.

"Expected annual average direct employment to be generated by these investments is 30,000 or 6.9 percent higher than the year-ago period's 30,000," De Leon said.

During the period covered, 37 investments approved for Peza registration numbered 201 or 27.5 percent higher than the 263 projects listed in the same period in 2005.

Of all the investors registered, 264 were location projects and 36 were economic development projects.

The last round of approvals brought Peza registration to 1,174 projects—the P52 billion investment is the agency was created in 1995.

In 2005, Peza registered some 67 billion worth of investments. The agency has also organized its confidence that it will exceed its target growth rate of 13.6 percent for the year.

In the same year, total exports from the country's economic zones registered an increase of some 0.3 percent to $22.9 billion from $20.9 billion the previous year.

Export revenues from the four public economic zones jumped 11.4 percent to a total of $8.1 billion, while those from exports to special economic zones (SEZ) grew by 2.4 percent to some $14.4 billion and those from 23 information technology parks and buildings went up 82.1 percent to $276.1 million.

Also, total employment in the economic zone 9.3 percent, with 1.77 million new jobs created last year compared to 1.62 million in 2004.

The 2006 figure account for some 445,000 direct jobs and some 867,000 indirect jobs.

SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan
MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION
October and November 2006

Suenos holds cooking show at SM

EASY-TO-DO RECIPE PUSHED BY SUENOS' WIFE-AND-HUSBAND TEAM

Food-sector highlight the series of cooking demonstrations sponsored by Suenos slated for 2 convenient days Saturdays from Sept. 23 to Oct. 1, at key SM branches throughout Metro Manila. Homemakers and avid cooking enthusiasts get a chance to sharpen their cooking skills via valued tips by preparing variety of dishes using the ever-reliable Suenos stainless steel cookware. Suenos distributed by Metro Kitchenware Inc. is the brand choice of restaurateurs, homemakers and caterers alike. Demonstrations are scheduled at the following venues: Aseana Sec. 30, 10 to 5 p.m. at SM Sta. Mesa, Oct. 1, 1 to 5 p.m. at SM North/Edsa. To know more about the Suenos cooking demonstrations, check with the SM information counter.

HCU Subspecialty Post Graduate Course

THE DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS OF THE MANILA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY shall host its fifth Subspecialty Post Graduate Course entitled "Interdisciplinary Approach to Total Pediatric Health Care Series 2", from Oct. 23 to 24, at the SMC Hall, Philippine Heart Center. The course is open to physicians who provide medical and nursing services in the proper care of infants and children suffering from common ailments and to familiarize the participants on how to medically and non-medically prevent childhood infections in the pediatric health care. Registration via e-ma is P7,000. For more information contact Marites M. Alejandro, MD or Tita Villanueva 363-6406/09-18-53440-72.

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PSLIS/LIPPI seminar-workshop

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF LIBRARIANS AND INFORMATION SPECIALISTS (PSLIS) and the League of Information Professionals of the Philippines (LIPPI) is inviting you to the seminar-workshop on "Knowledge Management and Records Documentation: Trends and Challenges" at the Travel Manila Hotel, Gen. Luna St. cor. Taft and UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila on Oct. 4 to 6. The seminar-workshop aims to familiarize the participants with the strategies using the established applicable IT system and to provide the current trend and strategies on knowledge management and records documentation on a global scale. For to submit registration contact: Lyn Ishiki 524-1996/ Cora, 3015-1113/815-Tangle, 09181505736, Jovin, 0918-8516576, Melo, 0912-8849021.

Star Movies' The Triangle promo

AN EXCITED AUDIENCE WAS THRILLED TO SEE WHAT ACTION-PACKED WARS OF THE Triangle, Star Movies' hottest series about the mysterious Bermuda Triangle from Filipino filmmaker producer/screenwriter Dixie Dedin-Dilangalen, Independence Day, Godzilla) and producer/director Bryan Singer (The Usual Suspects, 20 X-Men, Superman Returns). Now Star TV is giving away three exclusive Star Movies fans-three-fabulous grandeur goodies to those who can name in given 2 catalogs occurrences that transpired in the mini-series. It matches our entry to star/cinema.ph-angle@yahoo.com, and include your full name and contact number. The first 3 correct entries will be contacted by Telephone with instructions on how to claim their prizes.

UP Alpha Phi Beta national convention

THE ROLL OF THE UP ALPHA PHI BETA FRATERNITY IN NATION BUILDING AND community empowerment will be the main agenda of the coming national convention on the 25th (Fri) at the Great Eastern Hotel, Aberdeen Court, 1400 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. All Alphas' kinds are advised to contact national chancellor Leonie Rubio "Bio" Reyes Jr., head of the national convention committee at 882-4634, 433-1662, fax 853-4626, e-mail yuonyen@manilamedicine.com or the Convention Secretariat c/o lady chancellor Anne Cuenca Pelea, e-mail anpelea@yahoo.com, or contact 897-1081 loc. 7323, 0917-8495 for details.

Tech Deals on 0% Interest at the Hub

THE HUB, PLATFORM FOR THE LATEST IN MOBILE PHONE TECHNOLOGY, lets you experience hassle-connectivity with the Nokia 6131 and Motorola V3i. Now added attraction, Globe primepaid as easy-on-the-pocket way to get hold of these cool-gadgets-plus-phones through an interest-free 0% amortization over two. This promo, article is exclusive to The Hub by Globe Telecom at Glorietta 4, offers flexible, easy payment terms, Avail of a 0-percent interest rate for up to six months terms. The Nokia 6131 prepaid phonekit is offered for as low as P1,1,000 per month over the Metro day VOX at P1,291 per month. Post-paid subscribers can get the Nokia 6131 level at Plan 2500 and the Motorola V3i level at Plan 3000. Two-payment schemes are available with your Metrobank, HSBC, Citibank, Security/Diners, Equitable PCI, Banco De Oro, AEL and BPI credit cards. The promo is available until Sept. 30.

PEP-Kids workshop

THE CENTER FOR FAMILY RESOURCES (CFR) IS OFFERING ITS PARENTING workshop. Positive Empowered Parenting (PEP-Kids), a skills-building seminar for parents and caregivers of children between 1-12 years old. The PEP-Kids Workshop will be conducted on Oct. 7 and 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Cellar in the Annex of Manila campus in Laurel Heights, S.U. Topics include building positive parent-child relationships, effective communication, enhancing self-esteem, and positive discipline. Fee is P1,500 per participant. Includes handouts, lunch and snacks for both days. Interested parties may call Celine at 426-6001 loc 30.

57th SOS International Day

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 57TH SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE MANILA hosts a musical presentation recently in Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City. "Play Music Heroes 2006" was a night of dancing and dance-to-music from the CMSNet Trendsetters. SOS Day is a special celebration of SOS Children's Villages all over the world in commemoration of the birthday of its founder, Dr. Hermann Gmeiner. The other six Children's Villages in the country also celebrated this day with former blessing of additional family in-house, outreach programs with neighboring barangays and musical talents shows with invited sponsors and friends. SOS Children's Villages provides for children without parent care and protection to children in need. Here, a child finds a home in a village with brothers and sisters and a mother who has dedicated her life to the children entrusted to her care. For 29 years now in the Philippines, it has established seven Children's Villages located in Calbayog, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Lipa, Tacloban and here in Alabang. For details on how you may contact Kevin Soto of the National Office at 887 – 8784 to 850-9804 or visit www.sosph.org.

5th AFCSR set

THE FIFTH ANNUAL ASEAN FORUM ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (AFCSR) will be held at the Sonsona Plaza Hotel, Metro Manila, on Sept. 25 and 26. The theme for the 2006 session is "Corporate Responsibility and Democracy: The Asian Focus on Corporate Social Responsibility," recognizing the changes and most significant conference on CSR in Asia, highlights innovative programs and best practices in CSR by corporations in Asia and to provide CSR as a key strategy to addressing sustainability's needs and problems, to provide the Philippine World Robot Olympiad 2006 to be held on the Philippines on Nov. 11-13. For more details, contact Cue Inocencio at 912-1000/ 436-1758.

The Back of Affection at UP

"BACK OF AFFECTION," AN ENGLISH LABOR OF BROOKE ANCOR, A JAPANESE artist based in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, will be exhibited at the University of the Philippines (UP) Faculty Center Gallery from Sept. 25 to Oct. 6, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The idea for Ancor's compelling work springs from a visit to Hurt Buildings in August 2006, which coincided with the anniversary of the end of WWII. For more info, contact Elizabeth Ray V. Balido, project leader, at 921-0620.

Foreign Direct Investment Workshop

THE FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) WORKSHOP ORGANIZED BY the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) together with the Joint Foreign Chambers to be held on Oct. 3, at the Hotel InterContinental in Makati City, in accordance with the theme "How the Philippines Can Attract $6 Billions Year in FDI," workshop participants will develop recommendations to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on how to make the Philippines an investor-double or more triple the current levels of FDI.

2nd MAP-Maybank Badminton Tournament

MAYBANK FOR SYNERGY IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE 2ND MAYBANK BADMINTON confirmation of the Philippines (MAP) for the 2nd MAP-Maybank Badminton Tournament which was held on the grounds of Ayala Alabang Village Country Club, Parang, Metro Manila City. The tournament was organized for corporations with the 40th Malaysian Independence Day celebrations which was Aug. 31. As the sponsors Maybank was also to invite 11 competing players to the tournament, highlight of which was the match-ups of badminton's best players in the Open event. The Maybank Group components and sponsorships. Besides being the number one financial institution in Malaysia, the group also offers a full range of banking services. The spirit of camaraderie, togetherness and team spirit continue well with the group.

PSEM workshops

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF ENDOCRINOLOGY AND METABOLISM (PSEM), recently conducted two workshops in Koronadal and Polomolok as part of its continuing medical education (CME) program for endocrinologists to reach regions of the country. Committed to promote awareness and improve endocrine health care to all Filipinos, patients and their families, the PSEM held its first lay forum in workout/strategy in Dumaguete July 9. The events on Aug. 23, patients from Puerto Princesa, Palawan rushed to Legaspi and Iloilo to balance the hearing session sponsored by PSEM.

Millions of pesos at stake in SMC promo

SAN MIGUEL CORP'S (SMC) "SPOT A MILLIONAIRE IN PEMBE" SLA CONSUMER promo calls starting 15 of the country's favorite food and beverage brands. Pounds of purchase of these products are required to get an entrance coupon. Each coupon is worth a shake combination. Main prizes are a Mitsubishi Fuso Montero (Sportage), San Miguel Coffee (2 boxes of 4-day variety), Magnolia Fresh Milk (2 servings), Gemino San Miguel (2 cups of 8-day 300 ml), Star Margarine 3-pack 250g-ons variant), Magnolia Ice Cream (1 pint lemon-or-way-variant), Great Waistec Weekly (2 cups of 8-day 350ml), Purefoods Hotdog Juicy Regular (1 serving), Monterey Liver

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail to sci_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Lito Cesar D. Mangawang

People urged to keep their heart 'young'

By Charles E. Rubio

FOR TOMORROW'S OBSERvance of World Heart Day even organizer World Heart Federation is urging people around the world to put an effort into keeping their heart "young" so that a dramatic decrease in number of premature deaths resulting from heart disease and stroke may finally be realized.

To help the heart "age more slowly," the WHF suggests that people control the major cardiovascular risk factors by choosing a healthy diet, being physically active and by not smoking.

The appeal has been relayed in the eve of WHF's member-organizations in more than 100 countries—including the Philippine Heart Association—and organizers here in local activities that will hopefully reverse this deadly health trend.

"We must go on campaigning to promote healthy eating, get everybody to move more or else sooner and convince one to quitting smoking, PHA president Gina Nicio Rapsing told reporters. "The fact that heart disease and stroke remain the world's top killers—claiming 17.5 million lives a year—means that supportive action from across all sectors and levels of government is vital in order for us to make a substantial progress in our mission," he adds.

Never too late

Despite the escalating number of premature deaths, Rapsing believes it is never too late for anyone to start living a healthy lifestyle.

"By taking every Filipino to think about the age of their heart sometime—facetiously I have 'Young At Your Heart' is this year's global theme—we are encouraging everybody to turn over a new page in their life and adopt a heart-healthy lifestyle," he says.

World Heart Day 2006 overall chair and PHA secretary Dr. Ma. Stella Cardenas agrees that to convince's activities around the world are probably the most important advocacy ever organized to combat the deadly epidemic of cardiovascular heart disease and stroke and the importance of a heart-healthy lifestyle.

"The aim is straightforward: to the children, adolescents and adults all over the world: eat five better and longer; to get all known to be seedy regular exercise to keep it pumping blood efficiently with every heart beat. Healthy physical inactivity increases the risk of obesity and overweight, diabetes and hypertension which all make the heart age faster. Quitting smoking will also help keep the heart young as it helps maintain good cholesterol levels, reduces the levels of blood clotting and overall, decreases the chance of a sudden blockage of a blood vessel," Cardenas explains.

According to her, it is also important to maintain a balance in approach to eating by cutting down on portions and focusing on lesser fat foods and whole grains and fruits and vegetables.

Obesity and being overweight

But while the world's attention is directed at these three risk factors, Cardenas reminds that being obese and overweight is also a growing epidemic—a trend more than 1 billion overweight adults worldwide, at least 300 million of them obese—that should also be addressed as obesity and being overweight also increase risk of heart disease and stroke.

This problem is not only evident in adults considering that 22 million children under 5 years are also estimated to be overweight worldwide according to the World Heart Organization.

Being overweight and obese leads to adverse metabolic effects on blood pressure, cholesterol, blood fats (triglycerides) and insulin resistance, which all lead to the development of heart disease and stroke as well as type 2 diabetes, a common epidemic.

But while the prevalence of overweight and obesity is commonly assessed by using body mass index (defined as the weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in meters (kg/m²)), the preferred method of measurement which is easily determined by measuring waist circumference, has been found to be a better predictor of risk of developing heart disease and stroke.

Simple, crucial first step

"The measuring of one's waistline (with tape measure placed at the level of the navel) is simple and crucial first step toward tackling heart disease. It's a better indicator of risk than BMI, which many health experts, which does not distinguish fat from muscle (for example an athlete may have a high BMI because muscle is heavier than fat)," Asian-centric Philippine medical director Dr. Alina Casanovas explains.

Last year, the Philippine Obesity Society conducted a survey called "Shape of the Nation," revealing that six out of 10 Filipinos have excessive abdominal fat—the ones that can be measured by the gut—and fat this centrally fat under the tummy skin—as a significant risk factor for heart disease.

"However, the same survey found that only a minority of the public are aware that a large waistline could put them at risk for heart disease and four times as few people expect to have their waists measurement measured by their doctor," Casanovas reports.

The Shape of the Nations survey was conducted in 27 countries in July 2005, among the public and people identified as at risk for heart disease.

Markup

Having a large waistline is a very important marker, Cardenas emphasizes, adding that patients with increasing abdominal obesity, when screening with other cardiovascular risk factors including unhealthy cholesterol levels (triglycerides), high blood pressure and elevated glucose levels, are at risk of heart disease and stroke.

A high risk waist circumference for Filipinos is having a waistline of more than 80 cm (31.5 inches) for women and 90 cm (35.5 inches) for men.

"If you have a large waist circumference have your doctor check the other markers namely, blood sugar (if it's high), bad cholesterol (if there's too much), 'good' cholesterol (if there's too little) and blood fats (if it's high) as well as blood pressure (if elevated)," Cardenas says.

She explains that these cardiometabolic risk factors could help doctors tell their patients how close they may be from developing a disease and whether or not they should start taking medications (a very much necessary if not present in development (practicing heart-healthy lifestyle and taking medications).

Prevent heart disease, choose the right diet

By Tess F. Salazar

LIFE DOESN'T BE A BOWL walk on a field of land mines for those afraid of suffering a heart attack. All you need to do is read up on the course, and eat.

If you ask health experts from the World Heart Day Information Kit, which includes 100 cardiologic websites and heart foundations from 100 countries), a low-calorie, nutritionally balanced diet has been associated with slowing the aging process of the heart.

Just think: you couple that with regular physical activity, which reduces the risk of stroke by over 20 percent and the risk of coronary heart disease by over 40 percent (according to the Journal of the American Medical Association in its October 2002 edition). According to Liverpool John Moores University Dietician 2002), the benefits of exercise, research aged 35 to 75 have been found to be as strong and healthy as those of an amateur 20 years old.

Choose, not avoid

Food and Nutrition Research Institute research head Joly Lanuza says that a person's motivation to live a full life lies in protein as the knowledge of what to good or bad for his or her lives. Thus, she advises caregivers, experts and doctors to use positive, empowering words that include "choose one," "or" and "limit" instead of the restrictive "avoid." The latter word, she notes, only has encouraging.

So with that in mind, here's a "choose" and "limit" list for anyone "choosing to live" and not "avoiding to die."

1 Choose organic fruits, those that become sugared and least processed or canned foods. Recommended diet for fruits and veggies are two to three servings of fruit a day and three servings of vegetables. One serving of vegetables is one cup raw or one-half cup cooked veggies. Two servings is equivalent to one cup of raw vegetables or one-half cup cooked veggies per day and three cups servings of fruits. Choose the deep-colored fruits (green, yellow, red, orange) as these are high in antioxidants.

2 Choose foods high in complex carbohydrates. Limit the intake of sugar, salt, caffeine, and chemical content as much as possible. There's no single food that contains all the nutrients that our body needs.

3 Choose to dilute: eat in moderation, and choose entirely cooked over raw. There's no single food that contains all the nutrients that our body needs.

4 Limit the salt, or choose low salt. The maximum allowable intake for salt or sodium is no more than 1,000 mg. Choose those low salt in nature or take foods that are naturally natural or other natural. Limit your intake of processed foods, especially those containing sodium.

Choose to read the labels of your condiments to determine their sodium content.

5 Choose sources of potassium with lower potassium would be fresh fish (like trout) and dried beans.

6 If you like sweet tasks in your diet, choose substitutes to seasonings such as spices and herbs. Others would put fruit to seasoning (substitute or lemon). And if you just can't resist the taste of sugars into that source of pain, choose to dilute that to resist to reduce the salt content.

7 Choose low fat. It's considerably reclassed prominently in the labels.

8 Choose low cholesterol foods to prevent fatty buildup in your arteries.

9 Limit the carbonated drinks. It's packed with preservatives, sugar and artificial flavors.

10 The required calorie element depends on your age, sex and physical activities. Look for FNRI's formulation of the Recommended Energy and Nutrient Intake for Filipinos. Better to use the Recommended Energy and Nutrient Intake for Filipinos." Better to use the Recommended Energy and Nutrient Intake for Filipinos." Better to use the Recommended Energy and Nutrient Intake for Filipinos."

BUSINESS

Teves bucks bill on state-run credit schemes

Gov't saves P17.6B in interest payments

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE GOVERNMENT SAVED P17.6 billion in the first eight months of the year for paying less than expected amount of interest on its borrowings, a result of the relatively low interest rate environment and the strengthening of the peso.

According to a report by the Department of Finance, the government spent P123.4 billion to pay interest on its liabilities from January to August. These liabilities consisted of those incurred through the issuance of government securities and availment of official development assistance extended by foreign lenders.

The Arroyo administration originally allotted P229 billion in the first eight months for interest payments.

Fiscal authorities said gains in the fiscal front, particularly the government's declining budget deficit, helped boost investor sentiment and risk premiums on the government's debt offerings were lower than expected.

For instance, the average rate of the benchmark 91-day treasury bill averaged at only 5.3 percent in January to August. This was lower than the 6.44.5 percent assumed by fiscal authorities in the crafting of the 2006 fiscal program.

The stronger-than-expected peso also helped reduce the amount of the government's foreign-denominated liabilities. Under the government's fiscal program, the peso was originally assumed to settle at an average of forty-two (42 and 50) to a dollar.

Increased inflow of foreign portfolio investments due to the positive sentiment arising from the fiscal gains and growth in remittances of overseas Filipino workers led the peso higher. The local currency is close to breaching the P50 to $1 level.

The lower-than-programmed amount of interest payments in the first eight months of the year will somehow free up funds for other expenditures in the government's budget, which had been very tight over the years because of the need to service maturing obligations.

The government has been allocating about a third of its annual budget for interest payments alone, leaving little for vital expenditure programs like infrastructure.

The government has set a target of reducing the budget deficit this year to only P125 billion from last year's P146.8 billion. Based on its fiscal performance in the first eight months of the year, however, fiscal authorities said the full-year deficit figure was likely to fall way below the target.

In January to August, the deficit hit only P34.2 billion, or just 27 percent of the full-year deficit ceiling. Projections, by some analysts on the full-year deficit range from P80 billion to P100 billion.

Safeguards readied to prevent misuse of government funds

By Doris C. Dumlao

SINGAPORE—FINANCE SECRETARY Margarito Teves is not too keen on taking the legislative route as a means to enact state-controlled credit programs, which were scrapped during the term of President Estrada.

The Estrada-era EO 138 barred non-financial government agencies and state-owned or controlled corporations from participating in credit programs.

It called for a greater role of the private sector in the provision of financial services to the basic sector and the adoption of market-oriented financial and credit policies such as market-oriented interest rates on loans and deposits.

The government's role was limited to providing an enabling policy environment, critical support services and capacity building services that will facilitate the increased participation of the private sector in the delivery of credit services.

Early this month, however, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued EO 539 to repeal the Estrada EO, triggering fears of government debt costs that could spiral out of the budget deficit.

A bill was recently filed in Congress by Bukidnon Rep. Teofisto Guingona III seeking to reinstate in the form of a law the content of EO 138.

In an interview with the bureau chiefs of the Bakrie-Dow Jones / Bloomberg / Reuters / AFP / World Bank meetings, Teves said: "I'm not really certain whether policies of this nature can be put into legislation."

"It will take a long time and in the meantime, any time parliament is to have a policy which is flexible and where everybody can arrive at a consensus," he said.

Right away Teves said there appeared to be a common view among business and economic managers that EO 138 was good for the country.

But he noted that the new EO 538 issued by Ms Arroyo was already being adjusted to ensure proper safeguards.

"I'm not sure if we could quickly make those adjustments if we put this in the form of a law," Teves said.

"Right now, we think that EO 138 is capacity but a lot of people may argue that with issues like population growth, there's a need to make adjustments," he said.

He earlier said the executive department was now working on a framework to control the scope of liberalization allowed by the repeal of EO 138, narrowing down its coverage to 47 priority local government units.

"Like other developing countries, there might be a need to rethink even population management," he said.

The finance chief also acknowledged the urgent need for the government to beef up infrastructure spending in order to catch up with the rapid economic growth in the rest of Asia.

Congress's House Bill No. 5748 proposes to make it illegal for government non-financial agencies such as the Department of Agriculture and other government-owned or -controlled corporations to directly lend to the general public.

"What was achieved by the issuance of EO 138 should be retained and safeguards against policies that were perceived to be effective and disastrous be established. Enough of bad economics. Let us do away with the complex called directed credit programs," Guingona said.

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Location Map

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangosing

ANOTHER community that benefited from the Gawad Kalinga movement is this one (left) located in El Resort, Los Piños. The GK Scoobidoodle is the third community that insurance giant Insular Life has sponsored in three years, this time, turning over nine units to its beneficiary families who helped in the construction (above) of the units.

Gawad Kalinga communities to be 'tourist-ready villages'

By Tessa R. Salazar

WITH THE FIRST GRAND event of Gawad Kalinga communities to happen from Oct. 6 to 8 at the Mall of Asia, the emerging challenge for ownership and property developmentseeking the GK format is how to make GK shelters tourist-ready villages as well.

Tourists, for a cause and purely pesos from 24 countries dropped by the GK villages recently to learn for themselves how and why the villagers "clicked" and to assess if these same villages could suit them in their future visits to the country.

GK volunteers present during the visit said, however, that they were not looking to build resort-type communities but rather-friendly structures that could be upgraded to accommodate tourists who would like to stay for some time.

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Pura Vida

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Mariyan de Guzman Jr

WATER features at the Marriot Hotel in Los Suenos, Costa Rica

ENGROSS: charming the dense features of the Marriot Hotel

Pura life

When he found this idyllic spot, he took the risk. He invested his life savings and started anew. He claims that the best part is living away from a turbulent environment where spending and overspending are the way of life, where people are conscious about your social status, the kind of car you drive, the clothes you wear, or the house you live in. In contrast, this place makes you realize that there are really very few things you need to earn in order to live comfortably.

In that past life, he has known people who collect houses and properties but never actually use them. They spend a fortune on maintenance and upkeep, or they have to station that they work and earn enough to cover those expenses. Sadly, this ultimately translates to less time for themselves and their families. It is a vicious cycle that must be broken if you want to keep your sanity, if not your meaningful relationships.

Wellness community

At the heart of my visit is my wife-cousin's plan of developing his now-found haven into a well-

ENGROSS: charming the dense features of the Marriot Hotel

ness community. The site is located 800 meters above sea level, in the middle of a lush rainforest, with glorious surrounding the sea.

The concept is to leave as much of the existing landscape untouched. Only a few structures will be added to make one's stay comfortable and safe. The objective is for the guest to appreciate the surroundings more and to enhance the tranquil experience. In their parts, ecology is an important that the only way to maintain the beautiful balance is if you let nature take the lead and fully respect her dictates.

The structures have been built of natural materials, but durable enough to withstand the tropical clime. Pathways and living areas must be cleared, but not denuded. Receptacles for trash and wastes must be securely contained and regularly cleared. Permit and water installers must be contacted immediately as well as be inconspicuous. At the same time, the guest areas need to be made voluntarily safe from wild animals and insects, without denying the people from appreciating the outdoors.

Other considerations

Landmarks and helpful signs, edible dust and rubble, need be discreet and must blend with the surroundings. Staff areas must be clean and secure, but shielded sufficiently to minimize cooking odors, regular noise, and the clutter of storage and busy working spaces. There are several other considerations that must go into planning this wellness community, but to every decision, nature must have her voice heard. Cutting out a niche for man to enjoy her primitive beauty is important—for nature to man's health and spirit is immeasurable—but allowing Nature to thrive around this retreat is just as precious and is only as it should be.

In the end of my hiatus, I realized a wealth of things. I was glad to know that there are still pockets of heaven out there waiting to be discovered, unshattered, unused, but infinitely satisfying. I found out that there is a latent quality of life that is just the right size: truly desirable and seeks a change. I discovered that appreciating and living with nature does not mean subduing or taming her. And most solemnly, I learned that a couple of weeks is just enough time to build a wellness center!

W. H. TAFT RESIDENCES

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ALL PLANS meticulously laid out, the timeline properly arranged and the entire team geared up, and more than ready to go—the road for the newest comfort and luxury hub in Manila is definitely clear. Bruce up as Taft Avenue witness the rise of a new landmark.

Set for the spot of famous educational institutions like De La Salle University, College of St. Benilde and St. Scholastica, home of several business establishments that make the city the center of commerce in the country, the site of important government offices such as the Department of Justice and Supreme Court, Taft Avenue is definitely the busiest street in Manila. Because people of varying ages flock this eventful avenue every day in search their hectic schedules, Philbrook Properties felt the need to provide quality residences to students and young professionals that abound the area.

Unique structure

Necessary to stand out among the buildings on Taft Avenue, W. H. Taft Residences' unique structure is sure to build a strong identity. To cut above the rest, it will be constructed to fit the varying lifestyles of the people who choose to live comfortably and functionally. Philbrook executives boast that the building's topology will distinguish the new project with curvaceous, making the unit designs irregular and suited for every client's palette.

The façade of the building will also be designed in precise micro shadows that will help keep the area enclosed cool. The rooftop will be a retail park and the ground floor will house a café and several retail stores which will give a sense of a complete community within the residential tower.

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Automatic sprinkler systems for all units, an overhead water tank and underground cistern are for ample water supply, standby power for selected common areas and, most especially, wireless internet access are just among the featured amenities.

Residents may also enjoy a leisure dip in the swimming pool and a refreshing journey that is full of spirit at De La Salle University's exclusive fold can offer. There will also be more glass per unit so that owners can save on electricity and consume less energy.

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CONDO MODEL UNITS READY FOR VIEWING
DMCI Homes' Bali-inspired resort-residential series, Baya Garden Condominiums, is an exclusive community that offers five medium-rise buildings and two towers. Now ready for viewing are its standard model and Lanshin units. Affordable enough flexible and easy payment schemes, the project is located on Rizal Avenue Extension, Barangka, Pasig City. For scheduled viewing, please call 888-1111 or visit www.dmcihomes.com.

SM City Lipa now open

SM CITY LIPA, THE 27TH SM SUPERMALL, yesterday opened its doors to the public.

Located on a one-hectare property on Ayala Highway in Lipa City, the two-level 77,382 square meter supermall is SM's second shopping center in Batangas, the first being SM City Batangas.

Innovative design

SM City Lipa brings great shopping, leisure and entertainment—the SM way—in this rapidly developing city. The mall's innovative design enhances Filipino architecture in a modern fashion. The façade, which traditionally reflects the price of merchandise, significantly becomes a key design theme in SM City Lipa's façade, as well as in the store

SM CITY Lipa

lights of the cinema. Skylights and trees in the entrance enhance the beauty of the mall.

Iconic shopping begins with the intuitive ring and innovative SM Department Store, and the SM Supermarket, with its superb selections of fresh foodstuff, groceries, and home items, to home brand. SM marketplace subdivided to open include SM Appliance Ctr.

are, ACE Hardware and the Shopfair Shop. The mall will also have fashion boutiques, home stores, shoe stores, bookstores and novelty stores. It will also have service outlets and techie stores like computer stores, internet cafés, and telecom stores.

Good food

Shoppers will have a lot of tasting out options: food food ... fare at the SM Food Court ... international fast food chains like McDonald's, KFC, Pizza Hut, Yellow Cab, Go Nuts Donuts and Mr. Donut ... and popular homegrown fare like Goldilocks, Chowking, Greenwich, Andok's Litson, and Goldilocks.

The mall will also have specialty restaurants like Flavours of China, Gerry's Grill, Kenny Kit, Ming Sa Bang Restaurant and Tokyo Tokyo.

SM City Lipa's design team includes Design Associates, design architect, Robert Cerny, Ong and Associates, architect of record; Ed Alcoba and Associates, project manager; and Monolith Construction and Development Corp., general contractor.

Arts, design tilt . . . From page B2-4

and quality construction.

Built structure required

While the architecture category requires a built structure of single-detached residence in the Philippines, completed and occupied for at least one year, the interior design category requires a completed model room.

Grand prize winners Peña and Ty joining with the other category winners received P200,000 plus trophy each.

Internationally renowned architect Francisco Mañosa chaired the architecture category with architects Jose Jose Lim Ling, Philip Reyes and Josefina Ramos and Commissioner Avelina de la Paz as board members while the Interior Design category was chaired by Jose Mac Ii. Rubilo with Estela Gonzalez, Thelma Sioson San Juan, Susan Fausto and Leo Almonte as board members.

It's all about . . . From page B2-1

the Nuvo grove Plaza and Nuvo's are easily accessible from Ayala Westgrove Heights.

As an Ayala Land Premier development, Ayala Westgrove Heights is sure to provide residents true value for their investment. As the new name for the top-end development of Ayala Land, Ayala Land Premier offers its residents security, ultimate comfort, and privacy it embodies Ayala Land's trademark legacy of enhancing the residents' quality of life with its portfolio of prime locations and inspiring addresses. With its superior customer care and property management, Ayala Land Premier ensures exclusivity and value over time.

For further information about Ayala Westgrove Heights, please call 738-5000, or log on to www.ayalahousingland.com, or email ask@ayalaland-premier.com.

Gawad Kalinga communities to be tourist-ready villages' From page B2-1

Build event

Jose Mo. Montelibano, GK volunteer and head of special projects, added that GK is a "build event," particularly for tourists to experience building houses. Kalinga for Humanity style.

Many tour groups now include in their itineraries house-building experiences at GK communities. Some recent tour groups have been Youth for Peace and Mission Universities.

"They constantly stay there, but the conditions there would not be your normal tourist areas, they could be considered a rugged adventure or off-the-beaten-path," Montelibano notes.

He added that the GK experience is an "unconventional but fun trip" that touches on many, especially children, how the poor live and paths how the tourists themselves can help.

In the GK build experience setup, visitors and tourists volunteer houses with the families for up to a week, during which they can also participate in related games are expected to develop. The build experience, Montelibano says, has been done for many visiting groups from America, Canada and Australia.

"Our preparation is for accepting tourists with a name. That name is about people and the environment in practical terms. This is where our path is going."

The build experience with tourists is part of the lifting Kalinga drive of GK showcasing the best in the Filipino.

Unforgettable experience

Montelibano added that what makes the GK experience unforgettable is the sight of squatter and scenes of heaven living beside it. "They will see how a house starts from scratch." GK villages, such as those in Bataan, are set in idyllic areas that have not yet been rebuilt and renovated—an unusual site of common urban setting. Building happens amid a slum area. "If you see Bataan, where there are thousands of families, the GK spot for just a thousand families stands out."

Because Property reported last month that GK projects reverse the many adverse consequences socioeconomic depression has caused many slum communities in the country primarily by land values.

GK believes that property values are not just based on infrastructure or on statistics but also on the improvement of peace and order. Property values among slum areas get pushed down even further not only because of the unsightliness of the houses but also of the area's poor-controlled situation.

GK has housing development programs have built more than 20,000 homes nationwide, and right now 2,000 more are being constructed.

"GK 777" stands for the group's target of 700,000 homes in 7,000 communities in seven years. GK became public in October 2003.

The group hopes to finish between 1,000 and 10,000 more houses by end 2006.

It's all about fitness at Ayala Westgrove Heights

RESIDENTS CAN NOW ENJOY MORE fun fitness activities with the launch of the badminton and tennis courts of Ayala Westgrove Heights' new sports center. The third clubhouse in the sprawling village developed by Ayala Land Premier, the sports center offers badminton and tennis enthusiasts with premium playing courts for their enjoyment.

A special Mass was held to celebrate the completion of the sports facilities, followed by the blessing of both the tennis and badminton courts. A congressman buffet lunch was laid out for residents and guests, who also signed up to try out the new courts.

Guests were also treated to a free foot spa at the Wellness area, while children had a grand time playing darts and basketball in the special play area set up. Ayala Land Premier sales specialists were also on hand to show prospective clients around the village.

The highlight of the launch was the exhibition match held by tennis greats Dyan and Jackie Castillejo, and badminton ace Yuki and national champion Nicole Jacquet. The four also held a special tennis and badminton clinic for enthusiasts, teaching even the kids the proper basic and manner and giving tips on playing the games.

Exhibition launch

With the completion of the sports facilities, residents of Ayala Westgrove Heights can indulge their love of tennis and badminton, solo or alone. Perfect for lawn tennis, the large indoor grass court is well-lighted so tennis fans can play well into the night.

The badminton court, on the other hand, is large enough to accommodate 3 games played simultaneously. The playing surface is covered with special sport flooring that provides safety without compromising performance.

Aside from the badminton and tennis courts, as well as the Wellness Center and function rooms, Ayala Westgrove Heights' residents can also look forward to other enhancements to the new sports center. With plans for a bowling alley, billiard hall and other facilities, the center will surely be a haven for fun activities to boost residents' health and fitness.

The new sports complex is definitely an exciting addition to Ayala Westgrove Heights, a subsidiary known best as the New Big Thing after Ayala Land's lobbing. Located in Silang, Cavite, Ayala Westgrove Heights is a fully integrated and master-planned community that promises a quiet retreat from lifestyle while giving access to modern life's conveniences.

Built in what was originally a mango orchard, Ayala Westgrove Heights offers its residents with a variety of entertainment-friendly amenities like the Central Park with its lagoons, fishing decks and gazebos, the mango orchard, and the Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary, which is home to over 50 species of birds. Designed to take advantage of the land's natural terrain, homes in the sprawling village also present grand vistas of Laguna de Bay, Mount Makiling, and Taguytay.

Various amenities are also available right inside the village. Aside from the sports center, Ayala Westgrove Heights also has the main clubhouse where residents can enjoy such facilities as swimming pools, jacuzzi, tennis court, indoor and outdoor basketball courts and social hall. The Edgewater, a clubhouse designed especially for children, houses an's junior-size basketball court, kiddie pool, indoor toddler room, and internet/wi-wet and play areas.

Besides the village, modern conveniences are also within reach of Ayala Westgrove Heights residents. Top educational institutions such as St. Scholastica's College-Westgrove, De La Salle-Canlubang and Don Bosco, luminous establishments like Ayala Land's Laguna Technopark, and shopping areas such as

ETA BALA

HELSON Jasmine with badminton champs Rasonio and Kasey Asuncion

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HUDHUD interpretation of the traditional Filipino home

Arts, design tilt yields fresh crop of talents

IT USED TO BE known as the Young Painters' Annual, which has launched the careers of numerous Filipino painters since 1984. Two years ago, its organizers, the Metrobank Foundation Inc. expanded the annual search to include sculpture, architecture and interior design categories and aptly renamed it the Metrobank Art and Design Excellence (MADE) competition.

With new partners the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers, United Architects

THE EXTENSIVE use of marble really takes us back in our roots

TIMBER of different textures and colors dominates

of the Philippines, developer Federal Land and design magazine ShelterMag, the Metrobank Foundation said the competition now aims to provide a venue for creative expressions of young talented artists and designers.

"Metrobank Foundation's commitment to its objective of nurturing the artistic soul of the young Filipino this year has produced four young talented painters, two sculptors, two interior designers, and an architect who were chosen from close to 400 contestants from around the country," Metrobank Foundation EVP and executive director Aniceto "Chito" Sobrepeña said.

Never failed to impress

This year's winners never failed to impress the judges who are distinguished personalities in the art scene.

Leading this year's batch is architect Richard Peña for his work featured in his Quezon Village Quezon City.

His "Modern Filipino House" is a fresh interpretation of the traditional Filipino house and made extensive use of timber and native crafts.

Jasmine Oyek for her work titled "The Instrumento Symbol" won the grand prize in the Interior Design category.

Sy's winning entry demonstrates how efficient use of space could make one's life more meaningful and more enjoyable: the more space conserved, the more options for details, upgraded finishes, better materials

ARTS/ED

Super! Countdown

93 days to Super! X'mas!

style · urban living · pop culture · entertainment · technology

Super Zooper

Wild on! Miguel Zubiri page C4 Out of Africa

Jungle fever! Party animals at the Manila Zoo page C3

PBA cagers unleash their inner lions page B1

Newest addition to the food chain— Mc Do's Rice burger! page C2

Photography exhibit at EWG La Fuerza Plaza Condominium corner Salcedo and Rada streets, Makati City. Exhibit running until Sept. 24 for the benefit of the Bukidnon Deer Park and Rescue Center.

LISTEN UP!

with the REDWIRE DLX

Two icons of pop culture have united to create Levi's® RedWire, the first iPod® compatible jeans! Indeed a style and music lover's ultimate fashion must-have! Levi's® RedWire is set to be the hottest item this season – a perfect marriage of style and function. Levi's® RedWire is especially designed to incorporate the iPod® onto one's jeans, without worrying about difficult access, security, or bulky storage, which is typical of regular iPod pockets. Levi's® RedWire, like all Levi's® jeans, optimizes comfort while donning a youthful, sexy look while providing freedom to enjoy one's fave tunes.

Levi's® RedWire is available in Deluxe (DLX) and Basic models. The DLX model features a retractable headphone management system with a joystick control for easy manipulation. The streamlined design eliminates the iPod® bump while a built-in docking cradle keeps the iPod® in place.

Levi's® RedWire DLX is available in DLX Loose for men and DLX Wide Leg for women. The Basic version features a retractable headphone management system and a especially-designed iPod pocket. It's available in 510 Loose and 415 Straight cut options for guys, and 595 Loose cut for girls. Finishes are in rinse and medium for guys, and rinse for girls. Sundries are in white with a canvas patch, multiple threads and slab stitch. By button, top button and rivets, plus an embroidered Red Tab® label.

But hear this! Levi's® RedWire are in limited quantities and will be available for a limited time only. If you reserve a pair between September 15 to October 2, 2006, you get special gifts together with your RedWire purchase. Levi's® RedWire Jeans (DLX or Basic) may be reserved by calling 889-8805 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

From September 15 to October 2 only, those who reserve and buy the DLX version are entitled to a free Levi's® RedWire shirt and belt, or a free Levi's® RedWire shirt for the Basic version.

Customers can pick up their reserved orders from a Levi's® Store of their choice. Customers are reserve given five days to pick-up reserved orders or orders will be cancelled. This promo is open to all, but reservations are on a first-come, first-serve basis. So hurry up!

Participating Levi's® Stores include: Alabang Town Center, Robinson's Place Ermita, Festival Mall, Robinson's Galleria, Power Plant Mall, Glorietta 2, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Ayala Center Cebu, SM Mall of Asia, and Gateway Mall and Music One Greenbelt.

With only 40 pieces of the RedWire DLX version and 500 pieces of the RedWire Basic to be sold in the Philippines, Levi's® RedWire is definitely 'the' piece of the season, bringing together the state-of-the-art technology and signature minimalist design of iPod® and the iconic style of Levi's®.

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McDonald's Philippines gave a giant check worth P3M for the foundation's worthy projects

WE ARE MCFAMILY. Let's all sing praises for the arrival of McDo's first lounger! B.I.C.E!

BETTER THAN BOCELLI. George Yang, owners drammatico

NOT AFRAID OF CAMEL. Mega McInterior Sharon Cuneta is still my bunak dunn favorito

The rice and rise of Mc George

WELCOME HUGS. Kenneth Yang is taking things to the next level

MUSICAL GENES. Diamond star Kristine Yang is flanked by Joe Mari and Mary Ann Chan

EMPRESS EXPRESS. Lucy Tan and Pastie Chua

KABAYANG. Kristine Yang with fellow ms Cuneta

HOMEGA WORLD. Andrew Tan with Kat de Castro-Cruz

MC-HATI. Mayor Jejomar Binay(in DVL Kimika Binay)

RADIO ROMANCE. Robbie and Bebot Vera

ADVERTISING-A-LIST. Tony Gozon-Valdes and Susan Ormaza

PR POWER SET. Bonjo Beltran and Mitzi de Joya

SUPER LOVE HO TOT. We've been eating McDo's one burger (absalute or kind?-dule for lunch—it's our Super! face since!

Photos by Tim Yap using Kodak VPH. Additional photos by Rudy Esperon

Tim Yap

AS I WRITE THIS PIECE, MY tongue has just savored the sweetness of McDonald's new rice burger. I am looking at my sleek new gadget, the red Sex Acer Ferrari laptop, which complements my newly dyed hair (look to jet black, after seasons of platinum). To contrast with the speed of which technology and food trends are going, I put on my Ilang-ilang and Gladiola CD rondalesque musical compilations—Forever Yang and The Night is Yang.

Nope, the above-mentioned flies are not self-improvement voice manuals for Tonites, but close. These CDs were personal gifts from the most sober individual on the Ronald McDonald, this after providing us with palate pleasers. George Yang has now decided to tickle our ears and serenade us with the gift of song.

23 years and every year I was a part of it. Just like its Mega endorser Shangri-La Centre, I've been very much a member of the McDonald's family. I think I matched a Big Mac in weight record. Just like a lot of you, I ate it every day—It's like home-cooked food to me. Even in the Super! Insol quarters, 8-8:30hr is co spend dial. On several occasions, I even attributed my birthday lechon right smack center of McDo Play Place. There was also a time when I told myself that I wanted to be Ronald Mc Donald! when I grow up. (Inner people even think we look and from alike.)

Food-full and fruitful

The Red ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La was my chosen venue for Uncle George's musical gala, and he sang his unique way of telling the whole world, "Thank you! It's been 23 food-full and fruitful years since he brought the Mcdonald's to the Philippines." Sun George did not stop at just singing for an audience, he decided to sing for a cause. That night's performance was for the benefit of the Ronald McDonald House charities. That evening, McGeorge and eldest son Kenneth Yang, now the president and CEO of McDonald's Philippines, gave a giant check worth P3 million for the foundation's worthy projects.

Speaking of McKenneth, I must say (and I know that he's dad's fan) he has long been one hot boy chantable soul...quietly contributing to various causes and personally seeing to it that the kids of their foundation are well taken cared of, away media attention. I have been given the pleasure of growing up with an elder godbrother of this young man (through my effervescent "younger" sister Cindy) and I have long admired his quiet confidence and humble disposition. Indeed, Uncle George and Auntie Rebekka (see, she of Versace's "shawl-as-a-dress") raised him well.

That night, McKenneth welcomed the guests and dispelled the notion that he was going to join his father in singing outings.

Cindy and eldest daughter Rey Yang almost gave dad a standing ovation. Soon after the speech, George took the stage and cut it oldies with song. Our comrades after emotionally set struck a chord with his A-list audience—he was as hot as Happy Meals during lunch hour. The talent who sings like Bonelli even had Shalimar Lily Mondejar-Tan accompanying him on the piano. Later, theater stalwarts and sparse crossover joined pop superstars and singa cadres to croon the night away. Somehow, something was telling me that Mayor Binay was not going to come out in the middle of the program. Good thing my hunch was wrong, and the sun smiled (that by show proceeded to pack in musical punch.

From "good times to come" to "this love," one thing's for sure—"Turn to 10" Happy 23 years, and hopefully more than 50 years to come.

A Wild night for Wildlife

Paolo R. Reyes
Justine Cosme-Dario

WEEK 24/7 SAT DOWN with ravenous star Ormani Cadenas for the September issue cover story, the popular party girl quipped, "Wouldn't it be fun if somebody rated organizing an event that was out of character?" Like a party thrower really peculiar place."

Dramas will probably get her with up-sized connection. The creative folks at Stereotypical (the same organizers behind the recent Groove zone at the Daag ke Pinoy) invites you to "unleash your inner party animal," as they bring in a first-time DJ and genre-mega of Town for DJ Cosmonauts, a jungle-themed underground party at the Manila Zoo (Quezon Avenue corner Mabini Street, Malate, Manila) on Sunday Sept. 24, from 5 to 10 p.m.

The Berlin-based sonic sensation (www.djcosmo.de), a regular performer in his country's much-hyped Love parade, is the resident DJ of Rhinelectric Lounge in Munich and Berlin's Watergate and Original. She will man the decks alongside French DJ Hallucinoir (www.soundcloud.com/hallucinoir) and homegrown upcoming DJ Ego.

Don't let Sunday's lazy vibe get the better of you, since the proceeds from the event will benefit the rehabilitation and maintenance of the Manila Zoo. Tickets are priced at P888, inclusive of one drink. For more details, e-mail info@soundtrendsgood.com or visit soundtrendsgood.com.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Sept. 22, Saturday

House of Devotion: DJ Celebrity Action Heroes & guests by Moto DJs at Trafalgar, Greenhills Promenade. Bounce Ground Right Hotel. Sleepwalker, Platitude, Sound, Analog, The Automatics, Crushed & Blasted Cafe at Magnolia, House Before w/ DJs Angelo Villanueva, James Reid, Steven Lucero, Noel Wei & Wendell Garcia at Cajanna's, Ed Hosmo (Germany) at Embassy Club, Wendell Garcia at Cajanna's, Ed Hosmo (Germany) at Embassy Club, Wendell w/ DJs Paolo Mercado and Cam Quesada at Jill's Bahandi Bling crew DJ Mickey at Vibe, Mobile, Bringin' Back the Basement: DJ Mark Santiago Mori, DJs Bobbito & JD at Absinth, Sober Night w/ DJs Vinnie Cadiz, House Concept at Mercer, Cynthia Alexander & Apologies all Imaginary, 909 Show at Magnet Cafe, DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple Lounge E-Samurai Soundgasm DJs at Embassy Galaxia, When Rain at Stone Island, Ola Scandinavia & Ebonix at Prism at Jaipur, Drag on Saturdays at Red Box Level w/ Gang Streetscape, Sept. 24, Sunday 9 Community Underground Jungle Part feat. DJs Aroma (Germany) & Hallen 909 (Italy) at Manila Zoo, Unit 9's "Any Psychotherapy in Manila Obvious" at Seatons nationwide, Trumpet's Assault: Ten Summer at 1896 Bagumbayan Cinema 4, "Penguin, Penguin, Poems We Dreamed Of" at Ronac Art Center, Sound of Mine Is UV at DEF Studio, Theatre

Sept. 23, Monday

Hump Fitzpatrick at Magnet Cafe, Gary Granada & Bayang Barrios at Embassy, Movie Night at Rockers Lounge, Dallas, Cash 2000777 at Edo Bed & Breakfast Great an Affair with Cherry, Ala Mooring Hotel, Ed Rock at Gordon Makati, Silk & Steel at Mink's, "Penguin, Penguin, Poems We Dreamed Of" at Rockers nationwide, "Ang Pagbabalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" at Theatre nationwide, Cabaret Jazz Trio at Cayetano's Bar, Fort We Bleach at Club Mercer

Sept. 26, Tuesday

24/7 is I-ON CON 2K7 Party feat. DJ Manuel Dario at Embassy, Kala Makapaz, Sino Sikat?, Chillmen, Fonts & Dots at Sagada, Eric Chen & Friends 2, at Temple, Project Mayhem at Conservatory, Sex & the City Ladies Night at Mercer, Connection Acoustic Night at Rockers Lounge Dallas, Sparkle w/ DJs Patch & Kevin Edwards at Assembly, Kickback Tuesdays at Manila Co Club, Guerrero at Cafe Havana, Cinemalaki: Spirit of '87 at Cameron's Bar, Aretha & Gusset Out at Mink's

Sept. 27, Wednesday

Stand Comedy Out Said Korean Cultural Center w/ Bamboo Amadeo, Sam Milby & Whoopers at Metro Concert Bar, West Avenue, 90's 91.1 Jam Jazz Session w/ Henry Kahlenig & other jazz artists at Trek Bistro, Flashback: 80s Anniversary Party at Mink's, Johnny G. Kalibo at 70s Bistro, Weekend Wednesdays w/ DJ Boyd Simmons at Cinema's, Tower Internet at Sagada, Smooth w/ Steve Mills at Absinth, Blackstock at Mercer, DJ Cas Dramos at Embassy Cuisine, The Bloomfields at Eastwood Fiesta Cinema, Concertina at Kasuyo Lounge Suites, Funkadelic at Manila Co Club, Band Catalogue at Conservatory, DJs Mars Miranda & Johnpierre at Embassy Club, Stereo Therapy at Embassy, RP Poems, Willy Nimbs's Music Factory at Sentro Makati, Bliss at Solaire, DJ Rob Simmons' round: Double Happiness at Prince of Jaipur, Rockbuzz & Out of Body Special at Wag Wag feat. Dj Night w/ Judith Ka- and Mink's

Sept. 28, Thursday

DJs Mars Miranda & Johnpierre at Embassy Club, Stereo Therapy at Embassy, RP Poems, Willy Nimbs's Music Factory at Sentro Makati, Bliss at Solaire, DJ Rob Simmons' round: Double Happiness at Prince of Jaipur, Rockbuzz & Out of Body Special at Wag feat. Dj Night w/ Judith Ka- and Mink's

Sept. 29, Friday

Industry w/ DJ Luke Jolensten at Red House Sessions w/ DJs Mars Nuns, Sonic Sequoia & Jaisy Yuki at Florentin, Freddie Aguilar & Kim Jun at Camelot I Intramuros, Pete Manila Chorus at CSP, Youth Rebirth Show at Embankment, Liquified Orange at Stone Warehouse Decadence w/ Bryan Monsour at 2K7, Sunshine w/ DJs Patch & Mink Mix Unite at Manila, DJs JP Sanders & Bo Pandoz at Azure's Under Sultry Style w/ DJ Steve Mills at Citrus, Chris Maria at MBC Greenhills, Get House at Mercer, DJ Swartz Funk at Embassy Club, House Beats at Mink, Mo!!!DUDE at Mi Cafe, DJ Mia la Garza at Embassy Cuisine, Happy Yummy at Grove Island, Jovie w/ DJs Electrik & McDash at Temple, The Jimbo at 70s Bistro, Congo Fridays at Bed, Route 70 at Mink's, DJs Scratchmark & Mink at Prince of Jaipur

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, visit 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2947 (Globe) and 2357 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 MOVIEMAG, available at most entertainment outlets. Submit your schedules before Tuesday to events@mag24-7.com & mag24_7@yahoo.com.

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MAYTAG

Migs gone wild

IT ALL BEGAN WITH AN INNOCENT, AND a 10-min visit/answer.

Congressman Juan Miguel "Migs" Zubiri, Representative of the third district of Bukidnon, has never made secret his love for the great outdoors and his staunch environmental advocacies. Now, for the first time, he shares with his newly-rekindled passion for taking outdoor photographs and wildlife scenes, through his first solo exhibition entitled Out of Africa, on view at DFEC from Sept. 10 to 26 for the benefit of the Bukidnon Deer Park and Wildlife Center.

For this his first solo exhibit, Migs, vice chair of the natural resources committee in Congress, presents a whole range of pictures taken recently in Zambia and Botswana in Africa that were not let out of place via National Geographic lens.

All of the 25 framed Fine Art Photographs were printed using archival printing technologies that are made to last for a hundred years.

"Seeing all these animals in the wild makes you feel small in the scope of things. It's a very humbling experience that makes you appreciate nature and God's creations."

In taking outdoor pictures, Migs says, the anticipation of waiting for the proper moment to click away blatantly adds to the thrill.

"Just waiting for that wonderful moment, that one instant, it is by waiting," he explains. "The photo of that cheetah waiting on tree is a perfect example. It happened to only a split second, so I grabbed the opportunity. When it saw us coming, it darted away."

And to his mind, the medium that is photography has a power, a potency, which can and must be harnessed.

"Looking at photographs can be a very moving experience. With a single image, you can express a thousand words and thus, change perceptions or convictions."

It is therefore not a surprise that Migs takes photographs as statements of his activism also, as shown with others, and that he mounts this show to serve a higher purpose: to raise funds for the preservation of wildlife that is endemic to Bukidnon and Northern Mindanao in general, via the Bukidnon Deer Park and Wildlife Center.

The Center, sitting on a 4.5-hectare property, was designed to replicate the natural environment where animals thrive and to serve as a safe haven for animals that are in danger.

"This is how I do my part in preserving ecology. By way of my art, I get to capture the beauty of nature and it's majesty. In the process, I get to remind us the value of maintaining ecological balance."

The Workshop gallery is located at Ground Floor 2161 La Fuerte Plaza II, Don Chino Roces Avenue corner Ayala St., Makati City. For more information, call 8182694, email ongallery@yahoo.com or visit www.ongallery.com.

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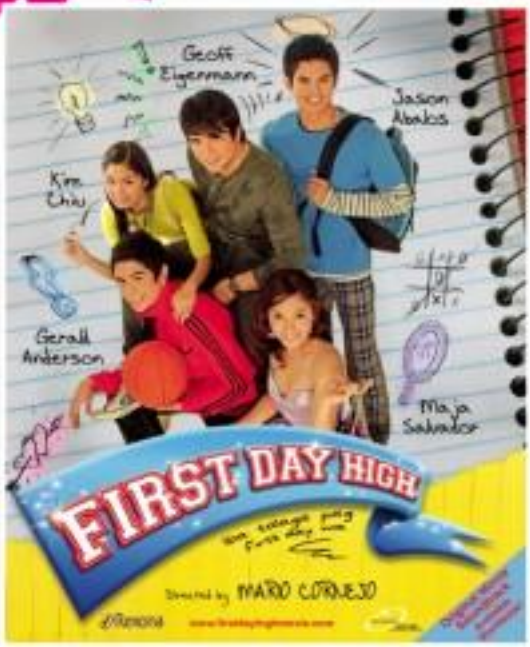
Story on page G3



At Eng Bee Tin, we've known for our ube hopias. To maintain high quality products, freshness depends on prompt deliveries. Ever since we switched to Sun, any delay can be communicated immediately and our commissary responds within seconds. Operations are more efficient, saving us precious time and money.

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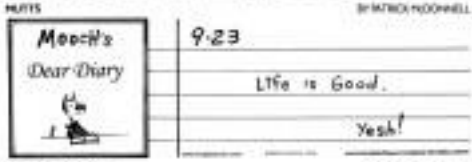
A LIPAK — BY JOJO ABREN

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY PH. JUNIOR

MUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL



LOVEHORTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGCO

ATOMO AND WEBBY — BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PANUNUNG

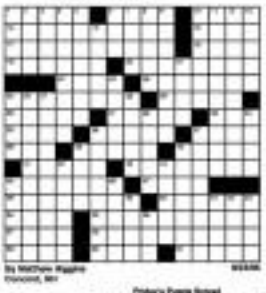
BIKO MACHINE — BY MANIX ABRERA

HAMSTERAMUS — BY JOHNS TEJIDO

TULDOK — BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEH — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Matthew Higgins
Hancock, NH

Friday's Puzzle Solved

HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21 to April 20): This is an excellent day for new creative discoveries with partners and close friends. You're very open to fresh ideas and needs. Perhaps someone knows a wedding cake!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're positively on your own today. Creative ideas, or perhaps misunderstandings between you and others, could take you by surprise. There is an easy, congenial, give-and-take present and others at work.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): New love and romance can blossom today. Business ideas will be characterized by romantic fantasy. You could meet the love of your life.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today is a favorable day for communication. Some today adaptable to you. Alternatively, someone in the family might need some extra attention from you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're tempted to spend today lazing, dreaming, or reading romantic novels. Use your creativity to its utmost. Why not?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're tempted to spend today lazing, dreaming, or reading romantic novels. Use your creativity to its utmost. Why not?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Some things somehow and will not seem to go right. You'd do well to keep a low profile and not push yourself forward. Instead, concentrate on something beautiful that relaxes, diverts or beyond your power.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have a strong receptive day. Be sensitive today. You might be willing to sacrifice your individuality in order to help someone else. Someone you know needs assistance or advice.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): A good friend might give you advice today. No matter how honest it is, it comes with the best intentions. This friendly word also be received as flattery and become very important to you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You have a strong need to balance your work and your home life today. Sometimes you have the courage to imagine different possibilities and to act on them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You could be in a heightened state of awareness today. Your intuition, patience and balanced nature will help you to resolve your relationships.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You have a very busy day to be communicative. Be sensitive to others' needs. You genuinely want to help someone in need. You might use your ability to drive theatre people in the audience.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	9	3	6	1	7	2	4	5
1	4	6	9	2	5	7	8	3
5	2	7	8	4	3	6	9	1
3	5	8	2	9	4	1	6	7
4	8	1	3	6	7	9	5	2
6	7	9	1	5	8	3	2	4
7	1	3	5	8	2	4	6	9
2	6	4	7	3	9	5	1	8
9	8	5	4	7	1	8	3	6

★★★★

Eugene Tejada was paralyzed from the neck down in a freak accident on the basketball court—now his friends have jumped into action, inspired by his strength and resolve

Because we give a %^&*

By Sarah Meier-Albano

I'M STANDING AT THE BORDER, watching the video play for the umpteenth time, and every single time it comes to part where he falls, I cringe and start rooting. It's heart wrenching, but I won't let myself turn away.

I guess that sums up the type of person I am—the little girl who would run into a fight in the corner of her room, and run how long she could stay there without moving. The little girl who always had a backpack prepared with "evacuation" in case something ever happened and she'll only have enough time to grab that one thing. I used to ditch my PEs on the very busiest hour [illegible] because where the HELL is [illegible] and we had to switch twice to head out to Aurora side. I know she'd freak out, and thought I laughed like a loser when she got back at the apartment six minutes after I did, deep down inside, that time was always a tools, because at the sign of severe, there's no way you're not even a

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PROMO PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 23 - 30, 2006

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Working Mom Magazine's Enlightened Home Management Guide

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Venue: 13th Floor Training Hall A and B ELJ Communications Center, ABS CBN Compound, Quezon City

This seminar is for FREE
but pre-registration is a must!
For details please contact Gay Ayop at 415.27.88
E-mail: BDPub@abs.pinoyceltel.com

ABS CBN

Ad under construction.

Want to know what's on the roof?
Be at the Metropolitan Museum,
BSP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila.
on September 23, 2006, 8am.
See how we'll change the landscape of Taft.

Because we give a %^&*

Rich scored two to gonna get lost, or till once the term media, or something like that. But you guys be a soldier sometimes, are ready for whatever life throws your way.

Realizations

I also need to let my imagination run; close my eyes and put myself in different situations, like them out on my hand, never allowing myself to just back down; it's not easy or painful, or sad. I'd do it when I saw homeless people, read bill, the ol. shelly at the hospital, people mourning at cemeteries. I guess it was my way of driving home the realization that I was truly blessed.

Honestly, I've been trying quite a bit, to imagine what it would be like to lose control of part of your body. And as I stand other ethics, seeing for guys able to chew, whoosed, jump, and run.... it hits, and hits hard.

"Are you crying?"

I look up, and Chapel and LJ are looking at me. Before he can even raise hand. They'd just circled the floor, on a Friday night, passing flaxseed. LJ holds up a rubber cup, and smiles. She's been teaching little kids at school, and like his students, it's easy just for him to know. Some of us have been going and took my meds, trying to pull off the Sid Celebrity Benefit of its kind, in a span of three weeks. Spinners aren't coming in as quick as we'd like, we're running out of time, and we know time is running on us.

Paralyzed

Sen. Eugene Tejada, a dear friend of mine, was paralyzed from the neck down, after a freak accident on the boulevard in the late summer of the Barangka Red Bull RBA game this past Mother's Day. After his inauguration to the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, rejoined for its orthopedic spinal rehab facilities, it became apparent that despite the overwhelming amount of support from Eugene's countless family members complaints abandoned all of Eugene's medical expenses for months after the accident, and who still continue to provide generous assistance to the Tejada family) there was still a need for efforts to raise funds.

General Meeting member was the the organizers of "Step By Step—The Eugene Tejada Fundraiser" happened to coincide with the celebration of my 25th birthday. The whole group gathered at my house, the day of the 2006 PBA Rookie Draft, Rob and Gigi running around, round the clock food (thanks Pinoy), and a nice little round game that got us all laughing because, I can through the evening, reminding everyone, and realizing that for the first time in a long time, I was surrounded by wonderfully passionate, quirky, and positive people. I told them so too, in a little thank you speech, as we toasted to friendship, some with glasses brimming with Hennessy, others with sparkling apple juice. And that's the beauty of this group—our diversity. All born in different parts of the world, but proudly Filipino. All drawn to do the right and dance through a fantastic night, but ready for church some Sunday. All living in the moment, but with a solid plan for tomorrow. Confident, calm a look at the camera, and try telling me that my friends don't kick ass. For this group of people, don't have spent the succeeding Sundays, and sometimes Mondays, Wednesdays, and a fair share of Saturdays with, talking about our plans for fame.

Step by step

It's a what started the snowball we now know as "Step By Step—The Eugene Tejada Fundraiser." Part One: The Eugene Tejada Celebrity Benefit, featuring an exhibition basketball game with the outstanding young members of our professional leagues. It's happening this afternoon, Saturday Sept. 23rd at 4 p.m. at the brand spanking new San Juan Arena along Ortigas. Entrance runs from as little as P50 up to P200, with concessionaires to donate some more, as all proceeds go to Eugene's orthopedic expenses.

One night, Jimmy Li, Kiko, Harvey, Jackie, Sonja and I, stayed up chatting about how hard it was to put this thing together, and to organize for us to come together and realize how much we valued each other's friendship. But today's event should be remember enough that there is not fighting for nothing, and that through him, we're all united, and determined to make things better on a bigger scale. We're ready to make "Step By Step" an official foundation, all about hope, resolve, courage, faith, and passion. So be able to pass on to someone else, the inspiration given to us by one individual. Someone who through the years, has never failed to make others smile, has always had kind words to say, and through the struggles of trying to get the PBA, never let doubt supercede his passion. One athlete having adversity head on, forging forward through whatever is thrown his way.

A kick-ass day

It gets tough sometimes for Sonia, whose sister Irma, despite her role as a continuing chair at the Medical Center, she is often ill, wheezing how to do what most of us take for granted: eat, shower, sit up, stand, walk. He's turning 28 tomorrow, and as most of us do on our birthdays, will go shoulder to her on the part two and a half decades, wondering what the next two and a half will bring. We're not sure. But what we do know is that he's got what some people long for—friends. And he feels that really give a % ^ & * to that.

It's gonna be such a kick-ass day today, to be ready to live it up on any 9th/Tuner you have. Who else is going to there? Reply to ...

Biggest appearances from your favorite celebrities, sets up assortment of prizes to our table, and stay tuned for information on our auction of PBA memorabilia. Hosted by Candy Vadero and KC Montero, plus performances by Sharon, the All Stars, Radius, Akabillies, Lapit Manila, and other surprise guests sweet!

Share-dork

Aside from the Dunks For Course—Hans Frank Rabellosa, Jeremy BG Tanlaireu, Kelly Williams, Jay Washington, and Armond Santos, The Eugene Tejada Celebrity Benefit Game, made possible with the standout assistance of MBC 5 and the PBA, will feature players: James Yap, Eric Menk, Asi Taulava, Jimmy Alapag, Alvin Teodoro, Johnny Abarrientos, Allan Caidic, BG Caballero, Jeff Carlos, Mike Cortez, Marmar Cardona, Jun Albacia, Marc Pingris, Jun Limpot, Dennis Pena, Andy Seigle, Kelly Nonterocla, Rafi Reavis, Ali Peek, John Wacc, Mark Telan, Rayblen Sarmina, JJ Helterbrand, and Jhong Hawnes, with special player/coaches Alex Compton, Dennis Padilla, and Antonio Aquitania!

For donations: EUGENE TEJADA - LCBC Account Number 134-141-8124

For more information go to: info@stepbystepfundraiser.com or call the STEP BY STEP HOTLINE 0905 7533750 or www.stepbystepfundraiser.com

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asido

Nida Blanca is a tough act to follow

BLANCA. Combined comic flair and dramatic nerve.

NEW ARTS-COMEDIA MAINSTAY partner, Nestor de Villa, in 1955's "Young Adarna."

By Nestor U. Torre

ONE OF THE FEW LOCALE FEMALE STARS who has been assiduously and deterministically "emulated" through the decades is Nida Blanca. In fact, there is a popular performance style informally known as the "Nida Blanca fondness."

Its components are a leering comic "mataray" acting style, a "pakiber" (or perky) manner, a decided preference for a lot of comedy and some serious scenes, and predictably rousing singing and dancing talent.

Gutsy roles

Nida first introduced her unique performance style in gutsy roles in movies like "Inatsagenta," "Nakala Ni" and "Unkaegan" where her comedic, dancing and singing skills held her in good stead, and she quickly became an audience favorite.

The feisty actress also popularized the acidic efficiency of Tessa, roaming woman as an entertaining chanteuse and busybody. Her demonstrated her dramatic nerve in some "serious" films, for which she even won several awards—but, it was as a "pakiber" performer that she really made her mark.

That's why in succeeding decades, she "typecast" quite a number of young comers to resolutely go for broke in their musical-comedy performances.

In the '50s, Marisol Rolano came across as a "young Nida Blanca," especially when they were cast together in the "Sobs and Murder" TI sitcom. Like Nida before her, Marisol talked a mile a minute, performed with cute and brassiness, and could also sing and dance.

Gutsy-like style

Trouble was, even after many years, Marisol held on to the same gung-ho style, so she ended up being outshined by her mellowing with the punchy more-svelte Nida Bernal, who eventually reinvented herself into a sensitive dramatic actress.

After Marisol, the next major Nida Blanca acolyte was Zsa Zsa Shagdangal. Like Nida and Marisol, Zsa Zsa specializes in going for comedy, and can sing and dance up a storm. She also added a touch all her own with her idiosyncratic fashion flair, in terms of fun-out clothes, accessories and hairstyles.

Nida's pakiber-manner style has been so influential that over the unexpected likes of Regine Velasquez has "outsider-ized" her in some film outings—with less than happy results.

The problem is, Nida's "cloners" get her style's external characteristics, but don't capture her genuinely idiosyncratic and zinc spirit.

Most recently it's Toni Gonzaga who's "doing a Nida" in her movie, "You Are the One" and her sitcom, "Crazy for You." As with Regine, however, the effort feels forced and fails to evoke Nida's real essence.

THE ACTRESS leans it up with jaime-ata Nisay in "Gulanggow" (1954).

Most than being roadway primitive and clue saving away like language is going to self-destruct in two minutes, Nida's exuberance should understand that she became popular, loved and acclaimed because she was her own-stressed-versatile person.

She loved life and herself, and filled the screen with her natural confidence, talent and verve.... A truly tough act to follow, as lesser talents shouldn't even try.

Getting the right dose of

green tea

boosts weight loss

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SINGHALAMPONG. Breath of fresh air.

MURPHY AND DELANEY. Passionate.

HEle. Sumptuous visual treat.

CoWE. Moral integrity.

Heady mix of art and pulp in Bangkok movie marathon

By Rito P. Asilo

DESPITE THE HECTIC SCHEDULE OF our week-related trip to Thailand last week, the movie bug nevertheless bit us to squeeze in every free hour we got to purchase videos of contemporary World Cinema titles and watch as many first-run and regional films as we could in that exotic Asian haven—one week before Prime Minister Thaksin was ousted in a bloodless coup. That morning's unpredictable proved to be most rewarding.

Historical drama

Ken Loach's flawed but powerful historical drama, "The Wind That Shakes the Barley," the year's winner of Cannes' Palme d'Or, follows two Irish Republican brothers (Cillian Murphy and Padraic Delaney) torn apart by opposing ideological views about North-ern Ireland's struggle for freedom and sovereignty against oppressive British military forces in the 1920s.

Murphy and Delaney turn in fiery, passionate performances, but Orla Fitzgerald, who plays the lover of Murphy's character, leaves more mixed with her portrayal as bored portrayal.

Thai films have always intrigued us for their unique screenplays, sparklingly photographed locales and arguably loneliest Asia's most amorous actors, but raw storytelling style and melodramatic schmaltz have always been their hallmarks—including now. Nonetheless acclaimed genius-director Nonzee Nimibutr's "Nang Nak" and "Jan Dara."

So, watching Nithiwat Thamrong-nawasawat's (coup-d'etat pictures) "Supasan Chanpo" is a refreshing breath of fresh air. It's about a young man (Witsanut Singhakrongrong) who, without telling his parents, trades his medical studies for a career in the performing arts—and falls in love.

The featherweight humor dazzles with its combination of youthful zest, fast-paced editing, delightful sound-track, and a bittersweet young heart.

Fork on the road

Talk about following one's passion: French director Jacques Audiard delivers one the best films we've seen this year, "The Beat That My Heart Skipped," an immensely satisfying adaptation of James Toback's 1978 melodrama, "Fingers," about 20-year-old architect, Thomas ("The Spanish Apartment's" Romain Duris, in an Oscar-worthy performance), who loses a fork on the road after a chance encounter with his former music teacher.

The incident prompts him to take up piano lessons again—a childhood passion he inherited from his long-departed musician-mother. Suddenly, he finds an illicit calvation from a life of crime and violence. But, running away from a shady past is just as hard as playing a Mozart piece... Cinemaes, watch out for this!

Fairy tales

Narrated by Hong Kong superstar, Andy Lau, Bobby Lee's Puppet Film first winner, "The Three Story" (Taiwan) is a sumptuous visual treat about a young girl's fascination with fairy tales, princes and princesses, modern storytellers, and shoes—and later, her quest for true love and happiness as a grown-up (Vivian Hsu).

The visual magic and splendor (see sculpture up to let longuriously paced production criminals as of Kwan Tak-hi's "Chestburning," Edoshi Kitano's "Dolls," and Shin Sumomoi's "Strains." Now, if only the film wasn't boring...

David Guggenheim's controversial documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," features as articulate Al Gore, who have philosophical rhetoric and scary scientific facts about the dangers of global warming, and we need to pay attention to it...before it's too late!

We, Pinpinks, like Tommy Lee Jones, the former US vice president's cousin-mate at Harvard, Conn, with his dashing good looks, stellar bearing and moral integrity, should have taken up acting instead of politics.

Specialty shops

Among the films that we got from specialty shops like The Future are Bahman Ghobadi's Kurdish feature, "Turtles Can Fly" like film that is Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein; Mayrath Meshkini's multi-awarded "The Day I Became a Woman" (Iran); Cachemire Bridlit's "A Real Young Girl" (France); Iran Edge Geyhan's "Gouk" (Ireland) from Turkey; the Dardenne brothers' "The Son" and "The Child", Jacques Rivette's "The Marvel"; Jeanne Balibar's "Dilange" (Mandolin); Hans Weingartner's "The Edukators," and Marc Rothemund's "Sophie Scholl" from Germany.

Mark Dornford-May's Berlin-winning "U-Carmen e-khayelitsha" (South Africa); Cate Shortland's "Somersault" (Australia); Manuel de Oliveira's "A Talking Picture" (Portugal); Nonzee Nimibutr's most recent film, "Syncop"; Takashimi Nagayama's "Hana," and Kitamura Nobuhiro's "The Overture," the comic picture that revived interest in classical music in Thailand.

Which makes us wonder: Where are the Pinoy films to all this?

Stars in their twilight years

By Bebe Cervantes

CELEBRITIES ARE often described as "larger than life." And, indeed, in their prime, many of them are. With his good looks and stellar charm, Marlon Brando was the epitome of machismo in "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "Julius Caesar."

Look up photos of Jean Harlow in "Magnificent Obsession" and "Dinner at Eight" and you quickly understand why she was called the platinum blonde of the screen.

Even Elvis Presley, who died at age 42, was a sex symbol in his prime. Remember his gyrating hips in "Jailhouse Rock"?

Yes, these stars were awesome, to be sure. But, they were sometimes too good to be true.

Breathtaking

The goddesses of Hollywood were equally breathtaking. The young Ava Gardner was described by a critic as "scrubbed to gorgeous" when she appeared in "Pandora." She was likewise a credible bombshell in "One Touch of Venus," but, it was in "Barefoot Contessa" where she was called the most beautiful animal in the world.

In her late teens and early 20s, Elizabeth Taylor took my breath away when she caresses Montgomery Clift's face and blue-violet eyes. Movie fans will remember her flickering close-ups in "An American in Paris" and "Rhapsody." She was so secure about her physical beauty that she didn't mind flagrantly acting herself in "What's Ahead of Tarzan's Mate?"—and topped a few actress lists for her gamesportsmanship.

Unhealthy lifestyles

But, alas, time and unhealthy lifestyles affect even the best of them: when they reach the twilight of their years. For example, Elvis "The Pelvis" Presley was unrecognizable when he appeared on his own comeback television special after he succumbed to drug addiction. He lost his good looks, gained weight and became professionally unmanageable.

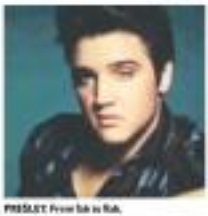
Brando ballooned from a puppy-pretty macho into a portly man. And Ava was said to have become heavily dependent on alcohol and the "kindness of strangers."

Today, Taylor is a far cry from how she looked in her prime. In fact, in a recent television special she appeared to with Joan Collins, Shirley MacLaine and Debbie Reynolds, they all looked better than the iconic actress.

Debilitating

Ronald Reagan was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, and became a recluse towards the end of his years. Heroin has likewise been put into reclusion by his family to clear the public will remember him as he was in his prime.

On the other hand, Marilyn Monroe, Jean Harlow and James Dean are remembered for their good looks because they died when they were still young. They passed away before time and reckless lifestyles could take their toll on their physical perfection.



PRESLEY. From fab to flab.

MONROE AND GREEN. Tophill suspense-filled series, "Who in the Blood."

Special reunion

QUEZON, SAYS MANILA, THE staff of Mr. & Ms. magazine had a reunion last July at the residence of its publisher, Esperanza D. Aguinaldo. We didn't even have an inkling there that Tito Eggie would get the 2006 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Literature. Journalists and Creative Communication Arts graduates have told us, anyway.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navarro

Revolution

It was the staff's first reunion in a long time. Soon after the February 1986 People Power revolution, the staffers of Mr. & Ms. Special Edition, having done their task, went on to pursue other endeavors.

Editor-in-Chief Letty Magsanoc became editor of the Sunday (tabloid) Inquirer Magazine, with Fe Zamora as her staff. Joey Nolasco and JP Freyra also joined PDI while Candy Quiroga, Rosalie Amante and J. Raul Hilbound stayed with the magazine, which Tito Eggie had reinvented into an agri-business publication.

Magsanoc eventually became Editor in Chief of the business. The group's infallible typewriter (yes, with pang responsors noon) Jose del Rosario, also moved to PDI, and eventually became chief of administration.

The magazine's chief photographer, Johnny Villoria, also became PDI's chief photographer, while I, Joe Galvez and the rest of the gang, became regular contribu tors.

Dancing partner

Artist Jose Alonzo, who was Tito Eggie's resident dancing partner, also moved to PDI, but the magazine's other staffers, artists and photographers (like Boy Vivo, the late Mickey Glamacher, Shirley Tinsaben and production chief Jose "Mang Joe" Ocampo) remained with Mr. & Ms.

Recently, Quiroga, who's now based in London with husband journalist Michael Gooday and their three children, came home for her father's funeral. We decided to have a reunion—potluck-style—at Tito

MAGSANOC AND JAPOSTOL. Have gone on to pursue other endeavors.

Eggie's place in Emerson Hts. Village.

As Magsanoc joined the party at 1 p.m. Amante, who's also married to a journalist, was newly retired, as she has since moved to Washington DC. Bet. Soliaco, now PSE managing editor, retained himself by organizing (a) Zamora, "One on: reminisce, but can't go back to the past."

E-mail mandynavarro@yahoo.com, or call 896-3288.

'Pag-ibig sa Bayan' performed tonight

KING PARENTING MOVING MEDICAL DRAMA

married teen, "Pag-ibig sa Bayan," will be performed tonight at Metrolite Theater as a benefit for Cardiac Health.

It stars acclaimed musical artists Bro Asiu and Jane Dee.

MONTAGE

The show is particularly instructive to young Filipinos born after the Edsa Revolution, because it brings to life a difficult and challenging collective experience that they missed a part of.

"Pag-ibig sa Bayan" will also be performed in Cagayan de Oro and Davao. If you would like the musical to be performed in your school or locality, call Ruby at 951-3130.

Gripping crime dramas on Hallmark

This October, Hallmark Channel presents two suspense-filled drama series: "Midsomer Murders" and "Wire in the Blood."

All Fridays of October at 9 p.m., "Midsomer Murders." Killings rock the peaceful county of Midsomer in England, and the task to solve them falls into the hands of chief Inspector Tom Barnaby (John Nettles) and his sidekick, Sgt. Gavin Troy (Daniel Casey).

Thursdays at 10 p.m. starting Oct. 19, "Wire in the Blood" has clinical psychologist Dr. Tony Hill (Robson Green) and DI Carol Jordan (Hermione Norris) investigating the kidnap and killing of little children, a serial killer, a suspect, and a murder-on-videophone.

EMO rockfest

Tonight at Rajah Sulaiman, Roxas Blvd., TSMG

MORRIS AND GREEN. Tophill suspense-filled series, "Wire in the Blood."

Movies on TV

On HBO, Sept. 15 at 7:15 p.m., "The Storm Superstars," Sept. 24 at 6:30 a.m., "The Witches of Eastwick," Sept. 25 at 3:20 p.m., "Real Genius," Sept. 26 at 1:0 a.m., "Valentine's 8:11," Sept. 27 at 9 p.m., "The Terminal," Sept. 28 at 2:30 p.m., "Losing Isaiah," Sept. 29 at 7:35 p.m., "My Captain and the World of Tomorrow."

On Cinemax, Sept. 21 at 6:30 a.m., "The Blue Brothers," Sept. 24 at 7:30 p.m., "The Italian Job," Sept. 25 at 6:30 a.m., "Mixed Nuts to Intersex," Sept. 26 at 2:20 p.m., "The Wild Hearts," Sept. 27, 6 a.m., "Share," 7 p.m., "Hydrangea," 9:25 p.m., "House of Secrets," Sept. 28 at 8:20 a.m., "Cat Ballou," Sept. 29 at 6:20 a.m., "Elizabeth."

... and now.

The new look and name of Nestlé Fresh Low Fat Milk.

SM Supermarket opens 27th branch in Lipa

SM Supermarket's 27th superstore opened on September 22 at Lipa City in Batangas, offering more shopping convenience and novel ideas to spice up your grocery adventure. SM Supermarket Lipa boast of a wide assortment of fresh produce and grocery items, streamlined modern interiors and fast and friendly service.

What sets every SM Supermarket apart is its pioneering ideas when it comes to giving you more shopping value. Here in SM Supermarket Lipa, you will discover new and innovative ideas that will definitely make every grocery trip worth your while.

Fresh Meats, Poultry & Produce

SM Supermarket guarantees you the freshest items at a lower cost compared to prices in the local wet market. Pork Kasim & Pork Chop retails for P120/kg, while Pork Belly is at P129 per kilo only! Fresh Chicken is at an unbeatable P85 per kilo. New addition to the vegetable section include Mini Hydroponic Lettuce and Potted Herbs.

What's New!

Takal-Takal Station

Aside from the regular offerings, Lipa's take-take station includes inihaw, ulam, sabong, lomi, siomai, pre-cooked or ready-to-cook meats and special chicken cuts. A variety of specialty rice are also available such as Thai Jasmine and even Black Rice, this gives you economical alternatives to try new food at small amounts.

Kapeng Barako

SM Supermarket offers a wide selection of local coffee including Kapeng Excelsa, Kapeng Robusta and of course, Kapeng Barako Excelsa. You may even have your coffee beans ground for free!

Native Kakanin

Batangas Ube Halaya, Kalamay Malagkit & Mais, Suman Balingbing, Suman Tamales, Suman sa Lihiya and other mouth-watering native kakanin are available for your take-home treat!

Sugarcane Juice

Stop over for a refreshing sugarcane treat at the juicing station near the Fresh section. Traditional fruit flavors are also available to quench your thirst.

More for your home

SM Supermarket Lipa is the first to offer home furnishings which include furniture sets,

mountain bikes and an impressive range of toys and apparel.

Value Packs

Save up to 55% with these value packs, compared to buying selected items individually. Especially bundled for SM Supermarket Lipa, the value packs come with FREE SM Bonus items such as rice, spaghetti noodles, mayonnaise, tissue and other bonus choices!

Yellow Tag

Bring home FREE SM Bonus items instantly when you purchase a minimum of P500 worth of Yellow Tag items! With over 500 fresh and grocery Yellow Tag items, winning is easier and effortless!

Buy 1 Take 1

Shop for more great deals on selected fresh and grocery items.

Big Blowout Raffle

As an opening treat, 50 MP4 players, DVD players and industrial fans are up for grabs when you shop at SM Supermarket Lipa! Just buy P500 worth of Yellow Tag items to join the raffle!

Fun family activities, surprise celebrity guest and other exciting events were lined up for the opening of SM Supermarket Lipa! Come & shop at SM Supermarket, at the ground floor of SM City Lipa along Ayala H-way, Barangay Marauoy, Lipa Batangas.

SATURDAY Special

NOW SHOWING

More skin and terpsichorean sizzle than cinematic substance

By Rito P. Asido

"Step Up"

D: Anne Fletcher

S: Duane Adler, Jennie Snyder Urman, Rachel Griffiths, Mandy Moore, Bernadette Peters

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BAZ LUHRMANN'S "Strictly Ballroom" and Peter Chelsom's US remake of the acclaimed Japanese film, "Shall We Dance?," contemporary dance flicks like Liz Friedlander's "Take the Lead," Chris Stokes' "You Got Served" and the British Sawyou stylist "Step Up" (Anne Fletcher) almost always get mired in mediocrity-ville.

Anne Fletcher's "Step Up" is no different. But, when her movie focuses its camera on scenes that involve dancing, the production perks up and turns the screen into a searching, pulsating cinematic canvass of energy and sexy, human energy.

Handsome, rap dancer Tyler Gage (Channing Tatum) is a world-weary slacker who lives with a foster family... and he's "breaking" nowhere fast." But, after one reckless misdemeanor, he is sentenced to 200 hours of community service in the school for the arts he and his friends have vandalized.

This is where he meets headstrong, theoretically trained Nora Clinton Elwood, who, by stroke of fate and movie-magic luck, suddenly loses her dancing partner, Andrew (Wes Mawhinney)—who gets injured—for the big dance showcase that everyone is excited about. After all, talent scouts from top dance companies are expected to watch the show!

Unsurprisingly, sparks indeed fly between Nora and Tyler—but, they couldn't be more different! Despite this, guess who ends up taking Andrew's place? So the unlikely partners stand a chance at dance-off glory! In Tyler's mission: "Re: don't need to be a rocket scientist to figure this out!"

The movie's protagonists are no great actors, but, hey, can they move and groove! It's not easy to imagine having hip-hop and classical dancing, but it's been done before (remember Debbie Reynolds's "Century Hop"?).

Tatum and Dennis have a confident air about them that makes them stand out when they're in "performing" mode. And Fletcher manages to elevate her film's flimsy narrative, close-that premise by making a simple, straightforward movie about two kindred souls who get a shot at realizing their dreams—and find romance along the way!

PEACHE. Loses her reliable thespic touch.

"Twilight Dancers"

D: Mel Chionglo

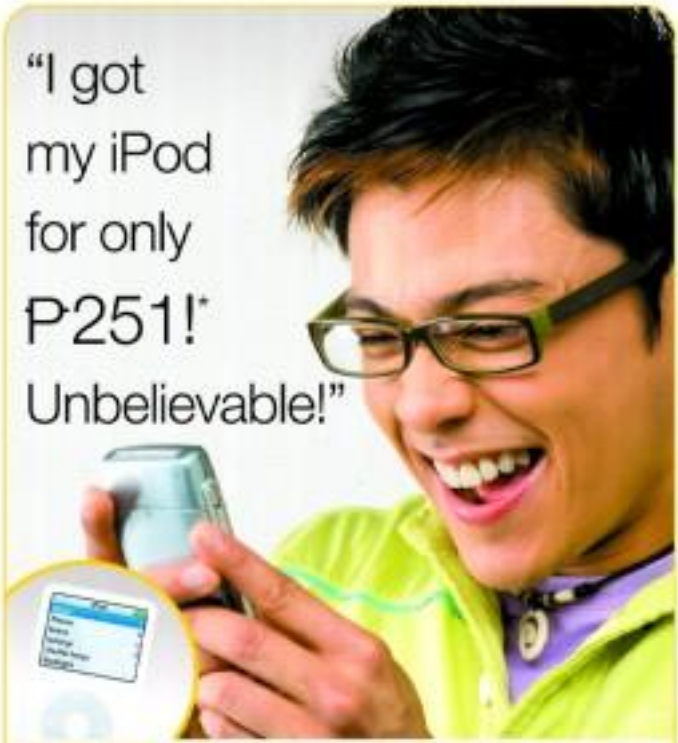
S: Tyrese Perez, Allen Dizon, Cherry Pie Picache, Lauren Novero, Anna Capri

Mel Chionglo's long-awaited big-screen comeback after 2003's "Sisters" is into about dancers, albeit a different breed. But, unfortunately his latest production is a major letdown—for most everyone involved in the film.

The R-rated movie follows the exploits of gigolo Dennis, Dwight (Tyrese Perez) and Alfred (Allen Dizon), as they are shoved deep into the bowels of the dim inside one of seedy nightspots.

Admittedly, we had high expectations for the film. Yes, the acclaimed director's chief foray into the subculture of skin, male prostitution and carny dancing comes some valid thematic points, but it doesn't say anything new.

After a long list of Pinoy production that suck, let's similar topics, however, you'll think so. Impostor team that includes Sullivan Silvestre ("Kaldo," "Mandirit"), Ritz Ice, Cherry Pie Picache, Anna Capri, Joel Lamangan and Jerry Lamenzo could do no wrong. Well, think again.



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Man's best friend turns nasty

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HE'S SOMEONE NOBODY CARED ABOUT... UNTIL SHE CAME ALONG

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Love begins with a first step.

Step Up

Channing Tatum star of "SHE'S THE MAN"

Jenna Dewan star of "TAKE THE LEAD"

By Nestani Torre

HOUSE BY WES CRAVEN'S LOWTIME productions, the sensitive features, "The Breed," continues Craven's tradition of cheap cinematic thrills, where attractive teenagers are killed in the story.

It follows the usual format of a group of young people heading off to a place far and isolated, where there's no cell phone signal and bad things—usually in the form of crazy people with chainsaws—start to happen.

Virus

In this instance, the baddies don't walk on two legs or carry axes, they walk on four, have sharp fangs, and carry a rabies-like chemical taint.

Starring Michelle Rodriguez, Oliver Hudson, Eric Lively, Taryn Manning and Hill Harper, the movie is typical of its kind, and doesn't make innovations in style or plot. Still, this doesn't mean it can't be effective.

Cheap thrills are cheap, true, but they also deliver real thrills. And this kind of movie's typical audience—couples who are out on a date, and large groups of friends—are in it for the thrill.

In the production, man's best friend is the villain. Five college friends head out on a remote island for a weekend of carousal and carnivalesque. Unbeknownst to them, the island has been overrun by a pack of heavenly aggressive dogs.

HUDSON fights for dear life.

How these animals have gone loco is something that will be explained further on...though, not very well. They're apparently been genetically modified, which is why they don't behave normally.

But, they're also carriers of a virus transmittable to humans that makes a bite victim behave aggressively. It's all pretty vague, so we're supposed to take what-ever the characters say or do at face value.

In any case, the dogs are intelligent canines that are supposedly more intelligent than your usual Alpo-eating canine.

And they're certainly more intelligent than the humans in this film who, in accordance with horror movie rules, are a bit stupid. (We know, going into a dark places all by themselves, not closing the car windows, when there are tons of hungry dogs out there, etc.)

Gory details

Maybe, the humans are made stupid so that, if one of them dies, you won't wanna stop feeling sad, and spend more time focusing on the gory details of man being mauled by his canine superiors.

The dogs attack scenes are effectively shocking. They're particularly gripping, because the production often uses real dogs and finally any special effects. The CGI image can beat the urgency and terror conveyed by a huge, live, snarling German Shepherd.

The standout that the movie's characters are put into an fenced, but not cool to disregard all that when you're on an adventure high.

If you're a person who really loves dogs, however, some of the details here just won't sound

FIGHT TO THE DEATH ON SEPT. 27

FROM DEAN DEVLIN, THE PRODUCER OF "GODZILLA" AND "INDEPENDENCE DAY"

MARTIN HENDERSON · ABEL SALAS · JEAN RENO · JAMES FRANCO · DAVID CLARKE · JOSH WINCHESTER

FLYBOYS

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

Haydee Yorac, Eddie Mercado remembered

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST SEPT. 11, WE JOINED RELATIVES AND friends of the much-loved and much-missed Haydee Yorac at the UP Chapel for a Mass to remember her on the first anniversary of her passing.

Together with Imelda's sisters Bebe Lorenzana, Chito and Ate Columbina and Lauretta Gallen, we recalled dear Haydee's inspiring qualities of principle, honesty and courage in public service, her brilliance and entertainment as a lawyer and teacher, and her continuing love for life.

Legal icon

After the Mass, a program and dinner followed, at which friends shared recollections that further burnished Haydee's sterling, golden presence all over again. And, in each of our hearts, we carried away a precious, moving or delightful memento that made the much-admired legal icon warmly human and accessible all over again.

For our part, we recalled visiting Haydee when she was desperately ill, and the nurse reminded us of their caress on "E.T." where they use to extraterrial was being studied by an army of scientists.

There were numerous anti-infection precautions in place, all with of rules were stuck into Haydee's weak body and our heart went out to her, as she struggled for the relief of life.

Months later she was feeling much better—and looked great—when she joined us for one our birthday dinners at Chito and Ate's place. We knew Haydee had fully recovered when she gleefully was into a mutual acquaintance who had done both of us wrong. The feisty Haydee had returned!

Fine example

Alas, it was not to be a permanent recovery, and Haydee finally left us. But, her grace spirit, dedication and love for people way not to win fame to inspire us to also do good and to work for others, the high flying Haydee way.

We also mourn the passing earlier this week of another friend and colleague, Eddie Mercado. Before we became Elvira Manhattan's ex-lovers—to "Time for Out Bond," we were the pioneering talk show's writer and director, and its first male host, Joey Lardizabal, was replaced, after he fell ill, by Eddie Mercado.

When we worked with Eddie, we saw first-hand what a consistent professional he was. He was at the top of his game, hosting not just TV shows, but also a series of beauty pageants and many other presentations. Yes, his speech were sometimes predictable, but he delivered them with panache.

He was also a popular singer in the then fashionable Frank Sinatra mode, and appeared as with his vast repertoire of songs—some which's been, if such is to be written down in a handy bunch of notebooks he always had at his disposal!

Child wonder

It was while working with Eddie that we met his now sister, Sunday Sousa, were before she became the little child wonder of Filipino films. We also grew husband, Vicky, to wife then, and kept in touch with them through the years.

These days, many so called TV hosts are ill-prepared for the job, since they think all they need to do is a look good and read prepared spiels written for them by somebody else.

We miss Eddie Mercado because he was a born in the true sense of the word, and to the manner born and trained. May the new generation of TV and show hosts learn from his sterling example.

YORAC: Quickening love for life.

MERCADO: Complete professional.

"BEBOT": Pushy boss.

'Bebot' raises questions about misrepresentation of Filipino women

By Rica Arevalo

MEMORY'S "TERMABET" HOOKED ME. AT the recent MTV Pilipinas Video Music Awards where it topped the favorite indie and best animated video categories. Lengoy Bautista took over from Krizbie Nadal as the group's lead vocalist when the latter decided to go solo in 2005. Interestingly, Bautista wrote "Invisible" when she was only 14 years old.

Throughout the video, the style is 3D animation—a first in the history of music video-making in the country. Directed by the talented Dehlia Sellerio, "Termabet" shows a man smitten by O Samsung Lolita, a light-eyed newbie in a pergahon. The guy eventually joins his countries here in the "show."

Animated features

With a fairytale ending, the characters appear as look-alikes of those from popular 3D animated features, but the hard work Sellerio and his group put into the video is obvious. It was screened last summer at the 19th Singapore International Film Festival.

On the other hand, The Black Eyed Peas recently premiered its new video, "Bebot" (Getcomfort Tarsi), loudly "Bebot" means a "hot chick." The video has raised questions among Filipino communities. It shows Jaimie Fox of "American Idol" and the Black Eyed Peas singing a jeepney on their way to a burlesque party. We see people in their summer get-ups dancing to the 3D-ness. The "Bebot" are wearing skimpy outfits to show off their "assets."

Racist

Rapper producer will.i.am is obviously proud of his Pinoy roots. He sang, "Ang Asawa, magkakamay ng kamay, chicken adobo, Pang-bebe, binebente sa kanto. Iligay mo ngo ang bibo, para ito, mamon tayo, Filipino."

Foreign fans are clueless about the words being sung in the video, because they are in our native language. The music is upbeat and appealing—when you hear the song, you can't help but dance to the funky beat.

Patricia Cornelio directed this music video, which has raised questions about the misrepresentation of Filipino women. Why use the title "Bebot," which connotes a sexy Pinay, and then erroneously link it with national pride? The connections may not be clear, but the basic just urges you to go on your best and groove.

Shiok! Singapore II

Shiok! is back ... with even more exciting things in store for Filipino tourists. 'Shiok' is Singlish for 'great' or 'wonderful'. Now is the best time to visit Singapore for exciting events, attractions, shopping, the food, ... AND the chance to win big prizes!

To Qualify:

- Filipino tourists traveling together as a group of 3 or more
- Must depart for Singapore between Sept. 15 and Dec. 15, 2006
- Must stay for a minimum of 2 nights

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The more you spend while in Singapore, the more your chances of winning!

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Shiok! Loyalty
Just by joining this promo, previously registered participants of Year 2005's *Shiok! Singapore* will receive a unique souvenir item as an additional token of appreciation.

Our Events Calendar

September

8 - 17	Asian Football Confederation U-17 Championships
9 - 10	Singapore Biennale 2006
9 - 10	World Food Fair 2006
9 - 10	Bentley's Singapore Opera
9 - 16	Forbidden City: Portrait of an Empress
9	Worlds Face to Face Asian Tour
9 - 17	Festival Macalister 2006
9 - 28	World Press Photo exhibition
14 - 30	DMJ in Singapore
22 - 27	Cybershake Professional League Singapore 2006
30 - 30	Pirates Championship NBL
31 - 30	Deepavali Festival of Lights
23 - 30	Hari Raya Light-up Celebration
23 - 30	Mid-Autumn Festival
28 - 30	AIP Singapore 2006
30 -	The Art of Cartier

October

1 -	Forbidden City: Portrait of an Empress
1 - 1	AIP Singapore 2006
1 - 14	DMJ in Singapore
1 - 15	Mid-Autumn Festival
1 - 17	The Art of Cartier
1 - 29	Deepavali Festival of Lights
1 - 29	Pirates Championship NBL
1 - 31	Singapore Biennale 2006
1 - 31	Hari Raya Light-Up Celebration
7 - 8	Women Boys' Cheer
13 - 15	House of Lanvin
13 - 30	Singapore Jewellery
15 -	Singapore International Water Festival
19 - 30	Christies Asian Art, Jewellery & Watches Autumn Auctions
19 - 29	Jewellery Time
20 - 22	Sotheby's Exhibition & Auction of Southeast Asian Paintings
28 -	Art Global Chinese Music

November

2 - 5	Singapore Jewellery
3 - 12	Singapore Biennale 2006
3 - 19	Rolex Tennis de Paris
6 - 7	WTC Singapore Cruises Asia International Keelboat Sailing Tournament 2006
12 - 17	Asian Polars Tour 2006
15 - 17	Lexus Cup 2006
16 - 25	Singapore Garden Festival

So visit your favorite travel agent and book your trip to Singapore NOW. For details, see flyers or call Singapore Tourism Board-Philippines in Manila at (632) 8130045; SilkAir Royal Winds in Cebu at (032) 2505111 ext. 208, or SilkAir in Davao at (082) 2331109 or (082) 2256608.

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Cinema 2000 Robinsons Starmall Surigao
Cinema 2000 Robinsons Starmall Tagbilaran
Cinema 2000 Robinsons Starmall Tandag
Cinema 2000 Robinsons Starmall Virac

Sharon, Regine spearhead Viva's 'Silver Series'

CUNETA. Two albums to commemorative era.

By Rocky M. Laforteza

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1981, Viva Entertainment has been providing various forms of entertainment. Presently, the company's owners are in active in producing concerts featuring both local and foreign acts.

Glossy movies

Known for its glossy movies when it first entered the entertainment scene, Viva is gearing up to become more active again in filmmaking. Next month's release of "Heyya," a sex comedy starring Ivanna Reyes, signals the company's return to movie production.

Also in celebration of Viva's 20th anniversary, Viva has unveiled a special compilation of musical gems in "The Silver Series," a commemorative 12-album set featuring some of Viva's most important stars.

The featured artists espouse the company's philosophy in film, recording, television and the concert circuit—a testimony to its contributions to local entertainment.

Spearheading the Silver Series is Marichu Canoza, who is supervised by two albums. One is a recording of those campy but popular Viva movie pictures like "Pagdating ng Panahon" and "Mahirap Maging Diyos."

The second album contains Canoza's renditions of Tekano Lecaroz's "Kiss or Kiss," "Scorpio Ka" and a medley of "Love Story" and "Somewhere Down the Road."

Friendship

The Megastar sees her star shine brighter when she teamed up with Viva at age 12. Now a business tycoon, she has maintained her friendship with the company through the years. Sharon's sense of loyalty and gratitude has endeared her to fans and colleagues alike.

Songbird Regine Velasquez also has two albums in the series. The first is a compilation of movie themes, which includes "Song Lalu" (from "Gabi Na, Kumare Ari") and "Ito Ang Sabi Nila" (from "Haunted: Perfect Murder"). Her pop hits like "Urong-Sulong," "Do the Things of Love" and "Kung Maibabalik Ko Lang" are also featured in the second album.

The Silver Series will also release the songs of Jaya, Jim Paredes, Freestyle, Lani Misalucha, Ogie Alcasid and Jessa Zaragoza.

A good mother

From page F4

A time away from your kids is good, because if you are always stressed out and overworked, your children will notice it, then you become a less effective parent."

"Don't think that the Supreme Person is a whip-wielding master who wants you to do house. He doesn't like seeing you unhappy. You need to have fun, and to find a healthy balance in life so you can be an effective guide."

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Where to Stay Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Astoria Plaza offers good food and good times

ASTORIA PLAZA STANDS FOR high level of comfort, personal service and hospitality. The hotel's signature restaurant, Café Astoria, features all the specialties from Asian cuisine to American continental. Set in a casually sophisticated design, Café Astoria is open daily for lunch and dinner.

Live band plays from Mondays to Saturdays serenading you while savoring the country's acclaimed cuisine. It's a perfect spot to mingle and enjoy a cocktail. The hotel is also a perfect location for group meetings and social events, offering all the pampering services and amenities that have become synonymous with the name Astoria Plaza.

Astoria Plaza is thoughtfully located at F.I.O.J. Rizal Drive Declaretty Arcilla Ave.) Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. For inquiries, you can call 5477111. Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com, website: www.astoriaplaza.com.

Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts.

Fiesta San Miguel's 'Oktoberfiesta'

DUSIT HOTEL HOLIDAY PARK San Miguel officially started 'Oktoberfiesta' with a kick-off party last Sept. 15. The popular comedy bands, Pipsilon and Mixtrex did a back-to-back concert outfront for the laughs.

Fiesta San Miguel (FSM) is also celebrating its 3rd anniversary with 'Bottoms up at 3' - a happy hour promotion priced for only P300 net. What's great about it is that you will enjoy fresh brewed beer by three hours anytime between 4 to 10 p.m.

Aside from these, FSM is also offering 'High Five at 5' wherein, for a minimum of five persons availing of the 'Bottoms up at 3' will receive a complimentary appetizer.

Beer aficionados can also avail of the 'Pinoy Beer Watch' - watch your beer with food for only P480++ per person. Watch your beer while relishing Pizza, Hamburger, Tabong, Kinilaw Bukas, Ganduna or Sisig. Or you can munch your beer with famous German dishes like German Pork Knuckles, German Sausage Platter, or Crustacean feasts.

So, party with the only venue in a hotel serving offering fresh brewed San Miguel beer - Oktoberfiesta as Fiesta San Miguel.

For inquiries call 867-3333.

FAMILY BONDING IN CAMP JOHN HAY

Family bonding is at its best in pollution-free Camp John Hay. there's something for everyone. The whole family can commune with Nature – while dad plays a round of golf at the mountain-view Highlands Golf Course, the rest of the family can gambling to the peaceful surroundings of the Bus Trail. The children will be endeavors so they play amongst the majestic pine trees and green scenery of flowers in the area. Camp John Hay – the best place for family bonding. See you there!

Saturday night dance fever at The Bellevue Hotel

THE ENTERTAINMENT AND LEISURE DESTINATION of choice in the southern Metro Manila area, The Bellevue Hotel, invites everyone to put on their dancing shoes for the exciting Bellevue Dance Party every Saturday night at the hotel's ZIKOS Entertainment Bar. The event revives the dancing craze of the seventies, sixties and other all-time favorite tunes in a dance arena overlooking the beautiful night lights of the south. Shake your booty and join the bellevue party to hit the southern Metro Manila party scene. Entrance fee of P500/cover gets you in with two standard drinks, plus a special happy hour rate happens at the stroke of midnight. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Lino Ed. Lim Foundation honors Filipino scientists

DR. LINO ED. LIM, HOTEL PHILANTHROPIST and renowned specialist in tropical medicine, recently announced this year's winners for the Lino Ed. Lim Educational Development Foundation Applied Science Awards. Now on its second year, the event aims to recognize outstanding research works by local scientists which contribute to the advancement of the country's knowledge and practice in fisheries and Technology. Shown in photo are this year's recipients (from left): Dr. Gliceria E. Parcon of Mariano Marcos State University, cited for fruits crops development; and Dr. Ariel Salvador, honored for his achievements in the field of semiconductor research and development. Dr. Herminia D. Balmaril, who was recognized for his pioneering work on aquaculture; and Dr. Severino E. Magpe, renowned locally and internationally for his research on soil science, crop nutrition, and coconut. The awarding rites will be held on Sept. 23, 12 noon, at the Lino Lim Auditorium of the City Garden Suites along Makati, Manila, with Dr. Patricio Faylon, executive director of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) as keynote speaker.

People, Events & Products

Masci homecoming

IT YOU ARE ONE OF THE MANILA SOUTH HIGH School (MSHS) or Masci alumni your chance to meet your former mentors is on the alumni homecoming on Oct. 14, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the MSHS Auditorium. Also featured in this once-in-a-lifetime affair are the school's pioneer teachers, who have made the biggest impact on the lives of their graduates in science learning, and the four recipients of such excellent mentoring, the Special Science Class of Batch 1980. To top the affair, the Masci alumni will have a chance to retake a logo at the fellowship and free concert by Eric Santos of MSHS Class 1981 and other performers. Meanwhile, those who have contact numbers of former MSHS teachers, are invited to kindly inform the alumni foundation by calling telephone 521-0168 or 941-3888, e-mail Drs_7@yahoo.com or text 0920-8710599 cum or Cora Cuevas-Fuling. Finally, support in being asked for the advertising campaign of this catalyst, the Masci alumni owes magazine. For details, please contact Rob Rubio (batch '81 at 0910-7603608, Rio Quimpo (MSHS 1982, Batch Dance 2001-1982) or send messages through e-mail at mshsrock_rubio@yahoo.com.

Burn Baby Burn!

BURN, THE HOT DIET MUSIC AND LIFESTYLE magazine is for all the Philippines, will be giving you Burn Baby Burn! the event! On Sept. 30, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Mezzo Hall of the SM Mall of Asia for Burn Baby Burn! The Burn Music Magazine Launch Concert. Enjoy an amazing and diverse array of performers that includes reggae acts and rock-balls bands, soul singers and spoken word performers, gay lesbians and bonus ones besides. Bamboo, Orange and Lemons, Imago, Barbie Almalbis, Pupil, Gloc, Sugarfree, Verna Penabella, Kjo Sharma Dance Company, Jonathan Sage Project, Sing-along Angels, Bahaghari Inc., Bino Sidel, Mrs. Kamikazee, Kitchenlitas, Chillfloor, Moonstar88, and more exciting bands will be performing at the launch. Get in on how just by consuming the latest issue of Burn Magazine (August 2006 issue) and Get Gay Valenzuela or the Red Hot Chili Peppers on the same. Also get a chance to win loads of awesome prizes, including an Honey Gold 40-liter mini-guitar with an amplifier, courtesy of Audiopolis. So catch your calendars people, and celebrate with Burn. Visit them to make reservations at Burn: The Urban Magazine for Everyone, SM Mall of Asia, Audioplate, Call 45, Chona Mapa Shop, Blurr and Booksale, in cooperation with Sonny's Grill, Bill, Team Records, Rico, Jack 'n' Water 96.1, Mo 99.5, 105.1 Yes 99.5 Wow, Mega Magazine Publications and The Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Gardenia's 'King of Baking'

MR. DIVOTO BAKEWELL, 911 YRS. OLD bakingis more than an art, it's an exact science. This is the reason why the Gardenia Bakeries Philippines, Inc., which has Nimoh Ascherra as its Baking Operations Controller. Nimoh's job is no small feat. As Gardenia's Baking Operations Controller, his task is to be best in the forefront of baking technology, improve the quality of existing products, and evaluate ingredients to be used in baking. Burma's not complaining. After all, he says baking has always been one of his greatest passions in life. Nimoh describes his work at Gardenia as "gratifying."

Thanks to Nimoh, Gardenia owners have at least 20 high quality products, making Gardenia the known worldly leading bread companies. Currently, Gardenia offers bread products like its best-sellers wrapped Classic White Bread, Rapid Raw Wheat Bread, and Fiberbread. With such an extensive and popular list of products brought about by Nimoh's passion for quality, value and perfection, you can be sure that the reign of Gardenia over the king of baking will certainly last through the ages.

Forum on the electric power industry

THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Fineap) invites you to attend a forum entitled "The Long and Winding Road: Privatizing the Power Industry" scheduled on Sept. 28, Thursday, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the Sun House, Manila Polo Club, #1 Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City. Invited speakers are Hon. Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla of DOE, Raul Sarol of ERC, Dennis Pantaleon of Piphil, Ricardo of Pepco, and Antonio Henson of Meralco. The forum will consist of the following lead-ins: Power Plants For Sale: The Roadmap of Privatization (Seminity prices if the highest doesn't, and The Spot Market for Electricity: Are we there yet?). Registration fee for Fineap members is P1,000 and non-members is P1,500. For inquiries and reservations, please contact the Fineap Secretariat on Marites P. Cayco at tel. nos. 811-4063, 811-4187 or e-mail at mcayco@fineap.org.ph.

Pleasant surprise from the Chili Peppers

From page F6

as a surprise, then, that their ninth and newest release runs circles out of today's worth of material.

"Stadium Arcadium" runs for a fifty-some-two hours and contains 28 songs—all new, mind you, with no remixes, covers or acoustic versions. This wealth of new material is a fanboy's dream-come-true. But quantity doesn't necessarily equate with quality, though in "Stadium Arcadium," there certainly is a good deal of the latter, as well.

Catchy

Blur One—called Aquatic for no apparent reason—kicks off with "Dani California," a catchy number dealing with 80-ish favorite theme, California.

The article album, in fact, is immersed in the California culture of Hollywood, frozen fandom and otherwise, and, and so on. They are a rad dude—Dani California, for one—though the band's a so-so-again's noisy scenic

THE PEPPERS' new album is there!

In truth, it's hard to understand what vocalist Anthony Kiedis is singing about most of the time. Oh, you can understand the words, but in true Kiedis fashion, they don't form coherent thoughts.

Kiedis' lyrics are still as spaced-out as they've always been, though his years had certainly improved over time this getting into rehab probably helped).

Vital

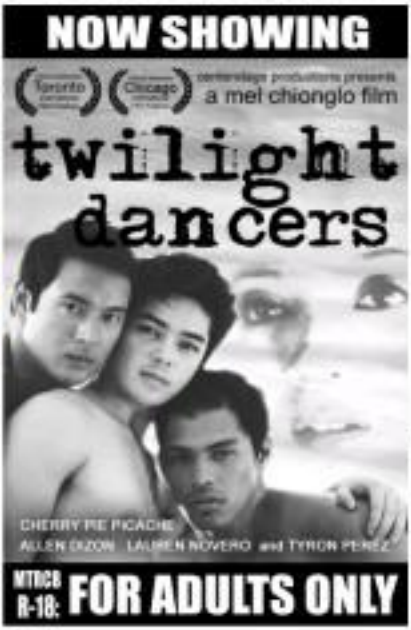
The singer's talent is simultaneously that of his band mates', however. This sound great finds Flea stuck in bar. Drummer Chad Smith's fast drum a solid and swingy rhythmic groundwork, wholly complementing the superb efforts of lauted. Plus, lead guitarist Michael Balzary and guitarist John Frusciante. The two musicians are all over the place—and thank God for them! They make over the room stolid, mid-tempo numbers sound charged and real.

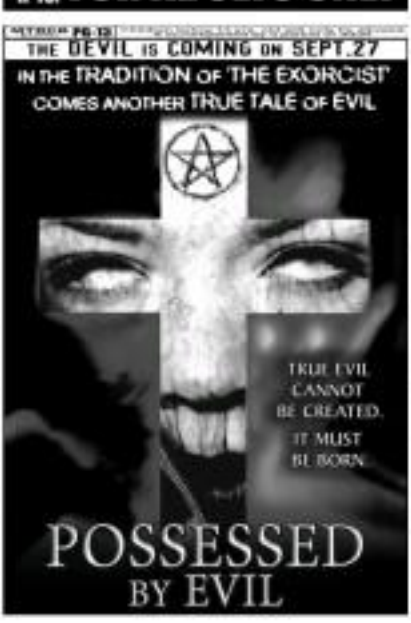
Revealing

Most of the faster songs are in the second disc, recapitulating the rugged, that feisty Mars, among them the revealing "Dani California," the funky "Readymade," the quiet ballad, "If," and the tribute "Animal Bite."

It's fast-hitting, as well as the fact that the album overall's done with one more of its songs, makes "Stadium Arcadium" not quite the unpared, lofted success it could have been.

Still, what the Peppers have come up with is something that's pretty damned good!



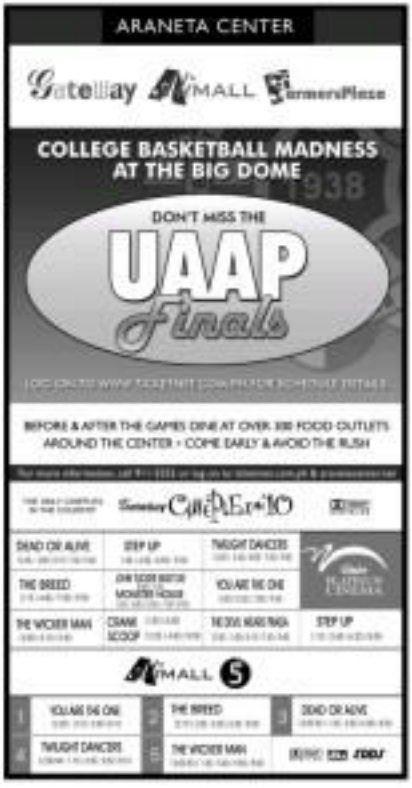


More skin and terpsichorean . . .

From page F1

Indeed, an actor is only as good as his last performance—he can't afford to rest on his laurels, unless Dani Dizon, who delivers a moving portrayal of the defiant macho dancer/call dancer trainee who dreams of a better life for his mute wife and son, the soundly reliable Picache and Capri, and a really hammy William Martinez, "host" choir champ coach with doing it mighty over the top performances.

Then storytelling, badly-edited scenes, inferior sound quality, and crude production values can't let drag down the film. At one point, we overheard one viewer muttering: "Parang pinoy noon!"



family movie treat
2 movie tickets for the price of 1
SEPTEMBER 11 to SEPTEMBER 28, 2006

Pleasant surprise from the Chili Peppers

By Neelani Tarre

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS. Their latest two-disc set contains 28 songs.

THE RED HOT CHILI Peppers are known for their psychedelic fusion of funk and punk, their one-time fascination with illegal substances (that proved fatal when guitarist, Hillel Slovak, died from heroine overdose in 1988), and their one-sock stage performances (that is, performing while wearing nothing but a sock). They are not known for being prolific.

In the course of 20-odd years, the funksters from California has released only eight albums, one of which ("One Hot Minute," performed with former guitarist, Dave Navarro)—they don't even want to talk about

Despite this material paucity, the Chili Peppers' star has remained firmly fixed in the rock firmament, and the numbers they rake in are respectable, if not impressive. It comes

Published: 9/

DA ADVENTURES SA ABS-CBN BUONG LINGGO!

SATURDAY

1:00 Wowowee
3:00 Nagmamahal Kapamilya
Bayani Agbayani as Fr. Agustin Advincula
"Ang bayani ng mga OFW sa Lebanon"
4:00 Let's Go!
5:00 Star Magic Presents
"The Sweetest Victory"
Zanjoe Marudo & Angelica Panganiban
6:00 KOMIKS Presents Da Adventures of Pedro Penduko
Kapre, Manananggal at Mambabarang...
Tatlo laban sa nag-iisang Pinoy adventurer!
7:00 John En Shirley with Matutina
8:00 TV Patrol Sabado
8:30 XXX (Exklusibong Explosibong Exposé)
9:30 Pinoy Dream Academy
Gala Performance & Nomination Night!
with solo performance by Iya Gómez & Jun Hirano
10:00 Aalog-Alog
with Nova Villa
11:00 Sports Unlimited

Komiks presents Francisco V. Coching's Da Adventures of Pedro Penduko

SUNDAY

12:00 ASAP '06
Bando Express Party
The Dawn • Bamboo • Sound Sandwich • Sugarfree
Moonstar 88 • Orig
Your Song
"Bigay na Bigay" by Mario Maron
Brenda Fox & Jacqui Mendoza
Love Spell presents Charm and Crystal
Starring: Gerald Anderson • Kim Chiu
Kayson Cruz • Shaina Magdayao
6:00 The BUZZ
7:00 Goin' Bulilit
TV Patrol Linggo
Rated K
Alamin ang "PINAKA" sa Pinas!
Sharon
Kasto Kanda, Sagot yan ni Mega!
8 Cycle Mind • Sandwich at Kamikazee

Bukas ng gabi pagkatapos ng Sharon
Jun Hirano, tatlong na ng Academy!
Pinoy Dream Academy

Sunday's Best
Gary V at 23
Mr. Pure Energy's best concert to date!
Gary V @ 23

PRIMETIME BIDA

SEPT 25 - 29
Pagkatapos ng TV Patrol Weh
Deal Or No Deal
Sino ang tatanggi ni Banker ng P 1,127,000 offer?
Super Inggo Bagong super power ni Super Inggo nakakainis na!
Bilisang Walang Ningning Magkikita na kaya sina Darina at Rosa Mia?
Crazy For You Ang OFW na si Jandua, nagpanggap na sosyalera!
Kapa-ibig ang playboy na si Joaquil, na ama pala niya. Kung magkakakulunan na...
mahal kaya pa rin kaya sila sa isa't isa?
Pinoy Dream Academy
Kansik-kanay laban sa pagpalook ng lahay
Cabiwis na ang tumalbo...
Sino ang susunod na aalis?

ABS-CBN